ENTERTAINMENT / A2-4

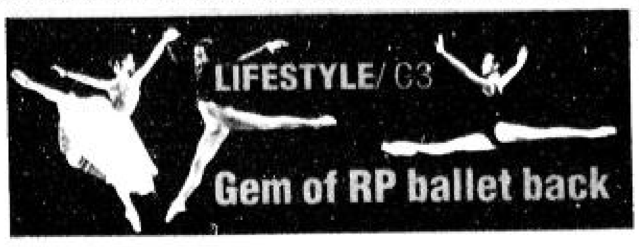
Robin's mom talks about battles in and out of household

SPORTS / A36

France sends Brazil crashing out of World Cup

WORLD / A32

Israel warplane bombs Palestinian premier's office



LIFESTYLE/ C3

Gem of RP ballet back

There's a king, pope, star in your family tree

AKO KAYA PINAGPALA DIN?

NEW YORK—ACTRESS Brooke Shields has a pretty impressive pedigree—hanging from her family tree are Catherine de Medici and Lucrezia Borgia, Charlemagne and El Cid, William the Con-

THERE'S/ A23

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, July 3, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 205 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Abalos: Why include me in impeachment case?

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

"WHY ME?"

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos raised this question amid suggestions that he be recommended for impeachment by the Office of the Ombudsman over the voided P1.3-billion Mega Pacific election automation deal.

ABALOS/ A21

Manny: This is all for you

Filipino champ batters Mexican foe after 3rd round scare

French-German final seen with Brazil's debacle

By Amando Doronila

FRANCE ENDED BRAZIL'S DREAM OF winning a sixth World Cup with a stunning 1-0 upset in the quarterfinals in Frankfurt on Friday that sent thousands of Parisians dancing on the Champs Elysees and Rio de Janeiro's multitudes grieving.

Brazilians had come to believe that it was Brazil's divine right to be the longest-serving king of the world's most watched spectator sport.

ANALYSIS

In Paris, the "Marseillaise" stirred up national pride to a pitch approaching that of the Liberation of France in 1945. In Rio, the samba and carnival had to wait for another day.

The exit of the Brazilians, the tournament's hot favorites, marked the third time France had defeated Brazil in their World Cup encounters. In the 1998 World Cup final, hosted by Paris, France defeated Brazil 3-0. In 1986, France won in the quarterfinals as it did last weekend.

France has only cleared the most formidable obstacle in its quest to add another World Cup title since 1998. The defeat of Brazil sets the stage for an epic French face-off with a historic enemy in the battlefields of Europe, Germany, which on Thursday defeated Argentina 4-2.

Germany takes on Italy in the semifinals on Tuesday at Dortmund; France plays Portugal on Wednesday in Munich. Barring upsets, it is the German-French encounter that is putting football fans all over the world on edge. It promises a rare all-European showdown in World Cup history between two European economic and political superpowers, let alone soccer superpowers.

On the football pitch, these two ancient enemies will prove their power, other than in the battlefields of Europe, where their armies had fought three great wars within a century—the Franco-Prussian war of the

FRENCH-GERMAN/ A20

'DepEd can't feign ignorance of sex ed plan'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Alcuin Papa

EDUCATION OFFICIALS ARE "FEIGNING ignorance" over the controversial sex education modules reportedly in use around the country, according to a longtime public school teacher.

To find such materials—one of which allegedly suggests the murder of an adulterous husband in his sleep—officials just need to visit any nearby public school, said Filipina Rañada, an expert on special education.

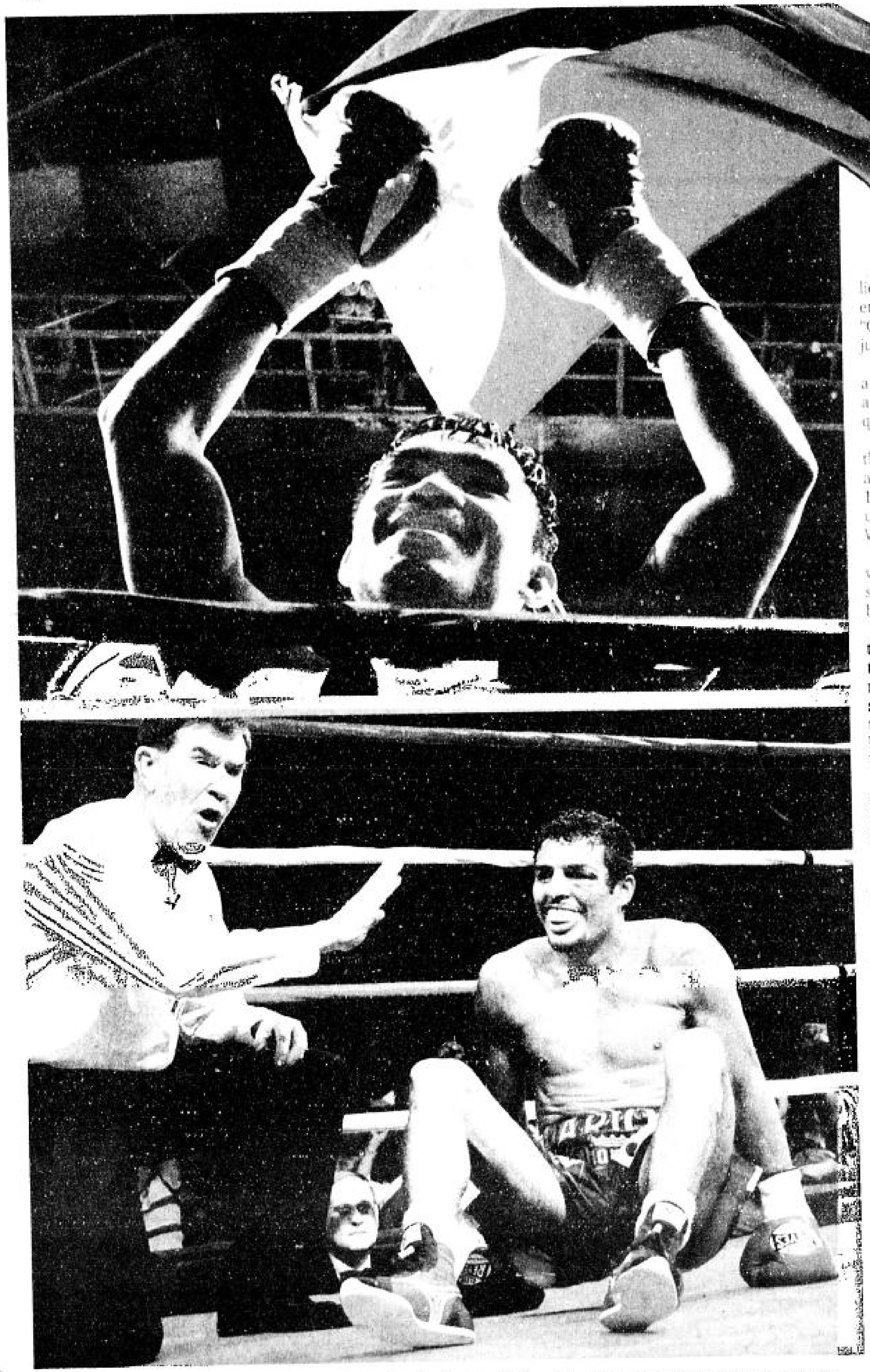
"The problem is they're feigning ignorance when, in fact, they were the ones who introduced the modules," she said in an interview with the INQUIRER on Saturday.

Rañada earlier blew the whistle on the Department of Education for its plan to "pilot-test" a new batch of sex education modules in public schools in Pateros and Parañaque City.

She said these materials were updated versions of those first introduced in the country in 1973. They had since been "upgraded and enhanced" in 1983, 1993 and 1996.

Some of the new batch's forerunners included lessons that purportedly allowed teachers to ask Grade 5 pupils to bring egg-

DEPED/ A8



UP AND DOWN: Filipino boxing idol Manny Pacquiao (top) raises his hands in victory under a giant Philippine flag after a bruising 12-round battle with Mexican Oscar Larios (bottom), who was down on the floor anew in the final round at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City. Pacquiao won by unanimous decision. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Francis Ochoa
Sports

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT in the third round, a hush fell over the Araneta Coliseum, interrupted only by surprised, uneasy gasps.

Manny Pacquiao, the boxing hero many believed to be unconquerable, was at the receiving end of a barrage of blows from Mexican Oscar "Chololo" Larios, the challenger many felt was just a piece of meat tossed into the lion's den.

Then, from the far corners of the coliseum, a chant cut through the silence and built up to a roar as the crowd repeatedly shouted Pacquiao's name.

At that, the Filipino ring icon turned everything around in an instant, showing the speed and power that have made him a byword in the 130-lb ranks, to twice floor Larios, come out a unanimous decision winner and retain his WBC international super featherweight title.

"This is for all the Filipinos who always watch me fight and support me," Pacquiao said in Filipino after yesterday's noontime bout at the Big Dome.

Egged on by the crowd that had shelled out their hard-earned money to purchase pricey tickets to watch him live, the General Santos native knocked Larios down midway in the seventh round with a solid right to the jaw and then floored the challenger again 45 seconds before the final bell with a combination set up by a crisp left jab.

Although none of those knockdowns welded Larios to the canvas for good—the Mexican got up quickly both times—it was enough to ice the victory Pacquiao had promised his

MANNY/ A22

Streets, churches, malls miss Sunday crowds as fans watch fight on TV

By Metro Staff and PDI Bureaus

JEEPNEY DRIVERS STOPPED PLYING THEIR routes. Church attendance was down. Malls, normally packed by noon on a Sunday, cried out for customers.

College sophomore Mae Santos, 18, summed it all up. No lover of the blood sport, she crossed her fingers for a Manny Pacquiao victory.

"Even if I'm not a sports fan, I'm still a Filipino," she told the INQUIRER as she navigated her way through Robinson's Place in Ermita, Manila, where the crowd of customers was noticeably thin because many of the usual shoppers had stayed home to watch the fight.

For a day, everybody seemed to be a Pacquiao fan—well, almost everybody. Three Roman Catholic bishops whom the INQUIRER texted—Oscar Cruz, Deogracias Iñiguez and

STREETS/ A20

Armed men torch Bayan Muna radio station

GAMU, ISABELA—UNIDENTIFIED men using two soft drink bottles containing chemicals set ablaze a community radio station operated by the leftist group Bayan Muna and the local government yesterday, causing damage estimated at P1.5 million but no injuries.

Senior Supt. James Andres Melad, Cagayan police director, said at least eight armed men went to the station of dwRC Radyo Cagayano in Barangay Centro at about 2 a.m. and torched the station's transmitter and broadcast booth.

Melad said the attackers also took the mobile phones of station manager Susan Mapa and five staff members.

The facility, put up by Bayan Muna and the local government only a month ago, had been critical of alleged abuses by the military in Cagayan Valley, Melad said.

Grace Bautista, secretary general of the human rights advocate Karapatan in Cagayan Valley, blamed the military for the attack, saying the station had

ARMED MEN/ A4

'Tagaytay 5' tell tale of terror in police custody

By TJ Burgonio

AS A PRESS OFFICER FOR A LEFTIST farmers' group advocating agrarian reform for four years now, poet Axel Alejandro Pinpin knew he could be picked up by police for questioning at anytime.

Pinpin had played the scene in his mind quite a few times. But when it happened, he was horrified. So were his four companions—Aristides Sarmiento, Riel Custodio, Michael Masayes and Rico Ybañez.

Pinpin and his companions lived to tell the tale, but their ordeal is far from over.

The five were cruising on a road by a ridge in Tagaytay City on the night of April 28 when suddenly a white van blocked their path. Within seconds, men wielding long firearms had jumped out, barking orders for them to get off.

They were cuffed behind their backs, shoved into the van and blindfolded. What followed were three days and three nights of intense interrogation and detention in different safehouses.

Their blindfolds still on, some of them were punched and kicked around. And once they were questioned inside

TAGAYTAY 5/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/02/06 SOURCE PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA brings home $380M in projects

By Christine O. Avendano

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO CLINCHED FOUR projects worth $380 million or P20.3 billion for oil and gas, hotel and resort, and infrastructure development during her week-long trip to Spain and Italy.

The President said she met with the largest economic group in Spain, the Confederacion Española de Organizaciones Empresariales, which also expressed interest in investing in the Philippines' tourism, mining and energy sectors, and in the area of information technology.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano told reporters yesterday that two of the largest hotel chains in Spain, Occidental and New Romasa, each signified interest in building a 200- to 400-room hotel in the Philippines which would mean between a P2- to P4-billion investment.

Durano said representatives of the two hotel chains, whose international operations have long been confined to Latin America, were planning to visit the country.

It would be the first time these two hotel chains will enter Asia, he said, adding that the country's pristine beaches remained its biggest tourist attraction.

Warm greetings

Aside from the sizable investment deals, Ms Arroyo also brought home the "warm greetings of the leaders I encountered and the good tidings of our *kababayans* in that part of the world," according to the President's arrival statement, released by Malacañang.

"The leaders welcomed the pro-life, profamily and propeople vision of the Filipinos in behalf of their people," said Ms Arroyo, who met with Italian leaders President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Romano Prodi, as well as Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

The President also met with Pope Benedict XVI who told her he would pray for the Filipinos and for the country's development.

Return to Spain

Ms Arroyo also announced that she would be returning to Spain next year. She had accepted the invitation of Spain's King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia to go back for a state visit.

"His Majesty King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia accorded me their warmest and most gracious welcome and I was honored to accept His Majesty's invitation for a state visit to Spain next year," the statement said.

Ms Arroyo said her visit to Spain next year would coincide with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Spain.

PRESIDENT ARROYO is welcomed home by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga (left), Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita (partly hidden) and the military and police top brass on her arrival yesterday at Villamor Air Base from her week-long European sojourn. JESS YUSON

GMA can't be ousted now, says Gonzales

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION cannot be toppled by any opposition group, according to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Gonzales said this was the assessment of the government today and "that's why our emphasis is more on [pursuing] fundamental reforms."

"No opposition group in the Philippines, individually or [combined], is capable of toppling the present government," Gonzales told reporters yesterday at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City as he and other Cabinet members waited for President Macapagal-Arroyo to arrive from her week-long trip to Europe.

"We are no longer bothered by what the opposition is planning to do," Gonzales said, insisting that the opposition was "far weaker today than last year."

The President came home yesterday, greeted by new impeachment complaints filed in the House of Representatives last week. The complaints, which included charges of committing election fraud in 2004, were filed one every day for four days by different opposition groups.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the opposition's strategy of filing an impeachment complaint every day showed the "beauty of the democratic process where everyone is entitled to do what he wants to do."

Ermita said the opposition was doing this for political reasons but the "common man" could see through the antics.

He noted that the opposition still needed to "get their act together." Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, he said, was planning to stage a civil disobedience campaign against the government.

Asked if he thought the opposition was less threatening today compared to months ago, Ermita said: "We don't want to be complacent, but things are clearer now. *Hindi masyado masalimuot ang* political atmosphere (The political atmosphere is less complicated)."

And with the return of the President from Spain and Italy where she made "unprecedented trade and security gains," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye urged the nation to preserve the benefits the government had achieved and to ignore "gutter politics."

"Promoting a good international image for the Philippines must be the responsibility of every citizen and all sectors if we want our economy to flourish amid a world of challenge and competition," Bunye said in a statement.

Embassy in Singapore gets custody of maid

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN Singapore has gained custody of the Filipino domestic helper who was arrested by the city-state's police in connection with the death of a compatriot on June 30, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The DFA also finally identified the victim as Sharon Villanel Pino, 28, of General Santos City.

Shortly before noon on Friday, Singapore police found Pino's body at the base of a high-rise government apartment building in Bedok South. She was pronounced dead on the spot.

Earlier that day, authorities were alerted about a fight that broke out between Pino and another Filipino maid on the 18th floor, from which Pino was believed to have fallen.

The DFA said the embassy on Saturday was given custody of the suspect, Stella Abella Concepcion, after her employer posted bail for her.

It was Concepcion who worked for a family living in the government housing project, the DFA said;

While Pino's death was made more gruesome by her fall, the DFA said Concepcion was arrested for the offense of "voluntarily causing hurt with a dangerous weapon" under the Singapore Penal Code.

"The embassy had earlier requested for custody of Ms Concepcion and she is now under the embassy's care after her employer posted bail for her," said Philippine Ambassador Belen Anota.

Anota said Concepcion would remain at the embassy until the investigation was completed, and that the mission had begun giving her counseling while exploring her legal options. *Volt Contreras*

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Beautification funds better spent on cops, say militants

THE POLICE'S PRIORITIES ARE MISPLACED, militants said yesterday, reacting to the beautification drive in Camp Crame, the Philippine National Police headquarters in Quezon City.

Leftist activists said the P1.3 million spent to improve the camp's sidewalk and the P16 million earmarked for the construction of the PNP Heritage Park would have been better spent for the welfare of policemen.

"(Instead of) spending millions on frivolous things like fairy tale bridges and wooden benches, the money could have been added to the take-home benefits of the policemen or to their salaries," said the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

"The point is, the money could have been used for the real and concrete welfare of policemen, not for superfluous projects," the KMP said.

The police brass have been beautifying Camp Crame, beginning with the construction last year of Heritage Park which will feature a battle monument on which will be inscribed the names of fallen policemen. The park will also highlight the achievements of the police force since its inception in 1901.

Crame's sidewalks have been paved with brick-red concrete tiles and lined with pocket gardens and wooden benches. As a finishing touch, fountains were put up.

Officers, militants agree

In a rare instance, some junior police officers and militants have found themselves on the same side of the fence. The officers, however, refused to speak on record for fear of being sanctioned by their superiors.

One officer said putting up a monument to honor colleagues killed in the line of duty was highly commendable.

"The rest are not," he said, calling them mere "decorative (improvements)."

"We have a problem with paying for electricity. So why do we have fountains that will consume more electricity?" he said.

He added: "We have a park and beautification, but what about investing in your personnel?"

A ranking official who defended the project had said that that was exactly what the PNP under Director General Arturo Lomibao was doing—investing in the morale and welfare of the troops by building more police stations in the countryside.

During Lomibao's term, police stations had mushroomed nationwide—in tourist spots as well as hotbeds of insurgency. Fifty-four new stations have been built, 51 are under construction and 48 are in the planning or bidding stages.

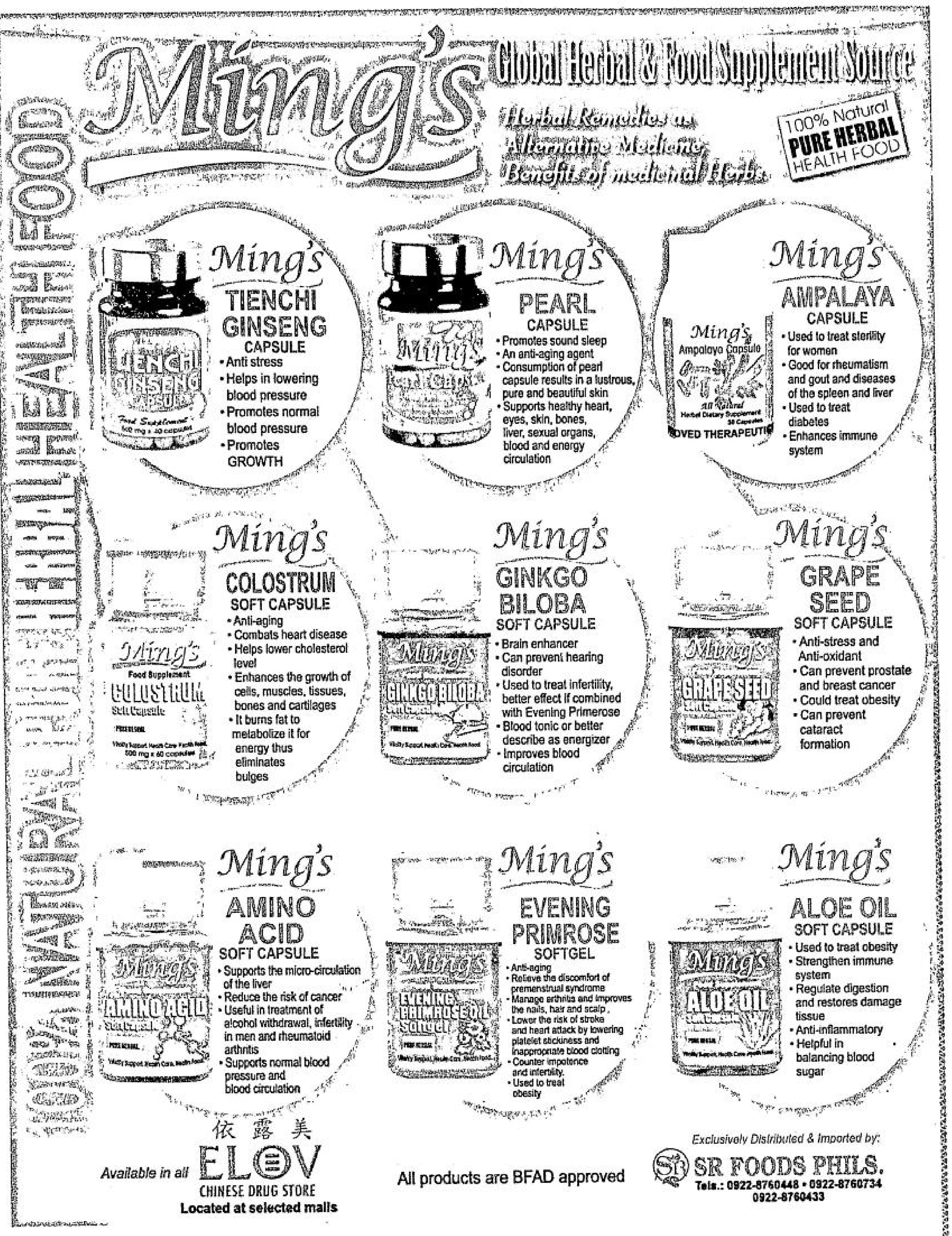
They would cost roughly P338 million to be split between the police and the local governments.

The ranking officer, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, Lomibao had also made it his priority to connect with the policemen in far-flung posts. Using the PNP's helicopters, he often visited the men in the field who—many for the first time—saw their chief in person.

"It felt good to see how moved the men were," one officer had remarked to the INQUIRER.

But KMP information officer Carl Ala said beautifying the camp would not bolster morale among the troops and may even demoralize them.

"We know that ordinary cops face a lot of difficulties," he said. *Luige A. del Puerto*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Fire hits Makati store

FIRE YESTERDAY razed the MC Home Depot on Chino Roces Avenue corner Edsa in Makati City, injuring two volunteer firefighters.

The fire began at 4:55 p.m. in Muebles Italiano, a furniture shop on the ground floor of the depot, fire investigator SFO1 Samuel Guzman told the INQUIRER.

Fire officials, finding it difficult to get near the burning structure, declared a Task Force Charlie alarm, the third highest alarm status, at 5:36 p.m. The fire caused a massive traffic jam in the area as more than 30 fire trucks arrived.

Firefighters broke huge plate glass windows to ease the pressure building inside the burning structure. Glass shards injured at least two volunteer firefighters, investigators at the scene said.

Unconfirmed reports said the fire started in an overheated computer, but Guzman said they would have to investigate the blaze to determine what caused it. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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Sison slams gov't plan for local peace talks

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SELF-EXILED FILIPINO COMMUNIST leader Jose Ma. Sison blasted Malacañang's plan to conduct "localized peace talks" with New People's Army rebels and called it a "malicious scheme" to split and fragment the revolutionary movement.

Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), described the localized talks as "mere chattering and dining sessions" among Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) officials, local officials and paramilitary groups in the service of the Army and the police.

In an e-mailed statement from Utrecht, the Netherlands, he stressed that there was no instance when any bona fide member of the National Democratic Front had participated in localized peace talks.

Sison, NDF chief political consultant, said the government should only negotiate with the rebel movement panel under Luis Jalandoni.

The NDF, the political arm of the communist insurgents which groups the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, and 13 other underground organizations, pulled out of the peace talks in August 2004.

The communists insisted that the government use its influence with the United States and the European Union to get the communist-led organizations removed from the US and the European Union's lists of international terrorist organizations.

Rather than attempt to resume the stalled peace talks with the NDF, Malacañang had declared that the government would initiate localized peace talks.

Two years ago, Ms Arroyo also pushed for initiatives at the local level, ordering the implementation of the terms of a peace pact with a splinter rebel faction, the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

According to Sison, since the second half of 2001, the Arroyo administration has been trying to sabotage the peace talk process by laying aside the previous agreements.

He recalled how Speaker de Venecia and then OPAPP Secretary Eduardo Ermita brought to Utrecht on Nov. 30, 2001, a two-page draft of a "sham final peace agreement, whose main provisions required the surrender of arms by the NPA."

He said the NDF peace panel immediately rejected the government's demand.

'Tagaytay 5' tell tale of terror …

From page A1

what they suspected to be a firing range, the interrogation broken by gunfire and taunts of "You're next!"

On their third night, they were roused and hauled into a van.

"This was the most terrifying of all. We still had our blindfolds on and they tied us up in the legs with masking tape. We thought we were going to be 'salvaged' (summarily executed," the lanky Pinpin, 34, his hair swept back into a ponytail, said in an interview.

Pinpin and his companions all heaved a sigh of relief when their van stopped and they were herded back into their humid safehouse.

On May 1, they were taken out again for a long drive and after more than hour, their blindfolds were taken off for the first time just as their vehicle was cruising along Edsa past SM Megamall.

Minutes later, clad in orange T-shirts, they were paraded before the press at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame as communist guerrillas out to sabotage the Labor Day rally that day.

On May 5 at the Tagaytay prosecutors' office, they were charged with rebellion for allegedly plotting to sow terror on May 1. They had been thrown together in a clean, but cramped cell inside Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna.

Reminiscent of Marcos years

The case of the "Tagaytay 5" along with the killings of leftist activists illustrates what human rights workers describe as the deteriorating human rights situation reminiscent of the Ferdinand Marcos years.

"They are living evidence," Jessica Soto, executive director of Amnesty International-Philippines, said by telephone. They can prove and show that political killings are happening, she said.

Most of those gunned down, ambushed or waylaid in the dead of the night or even in broad daylight across the country were local leaders of Bayan Muna, a party-list group the military suspects to be a communist front.

Between January 2001, when Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo took over the presidency from ousted President Joseph Estrada, and today, 233 activists, including 98 from Bayan Muna, have been killed.

While the Arroyo administration has denied any policy to hunt down left-leaning activists, the attacks have nonetheless created a "climate of fear and impunity," Soto said.

The attacks continued even after Ms Arroyo ordered the PNP to create Task Force Usig in May to keep tabs on the killings and after the country was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Double-edged situation

"We have a double-edged situation. On the one hand, the Philippines was elected to the UN Human Rights Council," Soto said. "On the other hand, you have extrajudicial killings … And when the President says it has to stop, there are more killings."

The task force said that only a small percentage of the attacks had been carried out by either soldiers, militiamen or policemen.

"It would appear that only 20 percent was politically motivated," Senior Insp. Henry Libay, head of the task force's secretariat, said in his office at Camp Crame as he leafed through its file on the attacks.

Of the killings of 109 party-list group leaders the task force had investigated from 2001 to the present, 23 were initially found to have been carried out by the military and police, and 10 others, by communist guerrillas. The rest were the handiwork of private persons.

The task force also looked into the killing of former rebel leader and peace talks consultant Sotero Llamas.

Lawmakers said that the case of Llamas, who was gunned down by masked men near his home in Tabaco City, Albay, on May 29, was proof of the government-instigated "state of terrorism."

Police, however, identified the assailants as communist hit men.

Killings not state policy

Libay said the suspects in the rest of the killings of the 109 party-list members and 11 leftist militants were private individuals, but conceded that the investigators had failed to establish if they were hired guns of the military or police.

There was no evidence the killings were part of a state policy or were carried out by hit squads mobilized by the military, as some militant groups had alleged, he said.

Interestingly, the task force has a smaller count of the killings because it excluded those killed in legitimate skirmishes with government troops.

So far, the task force has filed charges in 27 of the killings of party-list members and in four of the killings of militants, a low batting average if you ask the human rights groups.

Soto rued: "They need to do more. Their effort isn't enough."

Human Rights Commissioner Dominador Calamba II agreed: "We have not heard of any arrest or results of the investigation by Task Force Usig."

The Commission on Human Rights is looking into the killings as well as the case of the Tagaytay 5.

Looking for a trophy

Pinpin, information officer of the Kalipunan ng Magsasaka sa Kabite (Kamagsasaka-ka), offered this theory on why they were not executed:

"They were looking for a trophy to bolster the supposed tie-up between the Left and the Right," he said, speaking through the iron bars of their cell at a holding center in Camp Vicente Lim.

Since February, the Arroyo administration had been harping on the "unholy alliance" of rightist officers and communist rebels as being behind a plot to oust the President.

A graduate of the Don Severino Agriculture College (now Cavite State University), Pinpin is also part of the secretariat of the Cavite Farmers' Consultative Council or the CFCC, which is under the office of Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla.

Like Pinpin, Custodio, 29, is a member of the Kamagsasaka-ka, while Sarmiento, 48, is a consultant of several farmers' organizations. Ybañez, 58, is a cockfighting aficionado and Masayes, 28, a breeder of fighting cocks.

Selling farm products

As part of the Fair Trade Alliance, Kamagsasaka-ka works to improve the lot of farmers by marketing their coffee and sugar products in Canada at double their local prices through its partner, Philippine Organic Harvest, among other things.

Sure, Pinpin, Custodio and Sarmiento were progressive agriculturists, and on the night they were rounded up, they had just come from a meeting with farmers in Cavite to mobilize them for the Labor Day rally in Manila.

But Pinpin swore he and his companions were neither NPA guerrillas nor was their group a communist front. "We're not a front, we're a legal and legitimate organization," he said.

The estimated P800,000, which the enforcers seized from their bags and pockets on that fateful night, was raised by the group to buy hogs and cows for the farmers' livestock program, Pinpin said. This and their personal effects were all gone now.

The police also confiscated mobile phones, floppy and flash discs, and receipts for the purchase of ammonium nitrate and 8,000 small ball bearings, supposedly components in the manufacture of improvised bombs.

Witch-hunt

"This is all part of a concerted, conscious, deliberate effort by the state to mount a witch-hunt," said the bespectacled Sarmiento, who denied police claims he was the NPA commander in the province.

"In a way, we're lucky we're alive," he added.

Inside the camp, the Tagaytay 5 sleep side by side on the cold floor of their cramped cell. They are not allowed to go out for sun or exercise. But they have managed to smuggle books inside.

Here, Pinpin, a former University of the Philippines Writers' workshop fellow who has published a collection of poems titled "Tugmaang Walang Tugma," managed to write a verse about their deprivations, "Order ni Sir," which he read aloud to the consternation of the guards.

Of course, he prefers to write poetry at home, beyond the walls of the camp, but then again in these uncertain times, the prospects are not that good.

"If I walk out of here free, definitely I won't be safe," Pinpin tersely said. "Maybe the next time they see me, they'd shoot me down."

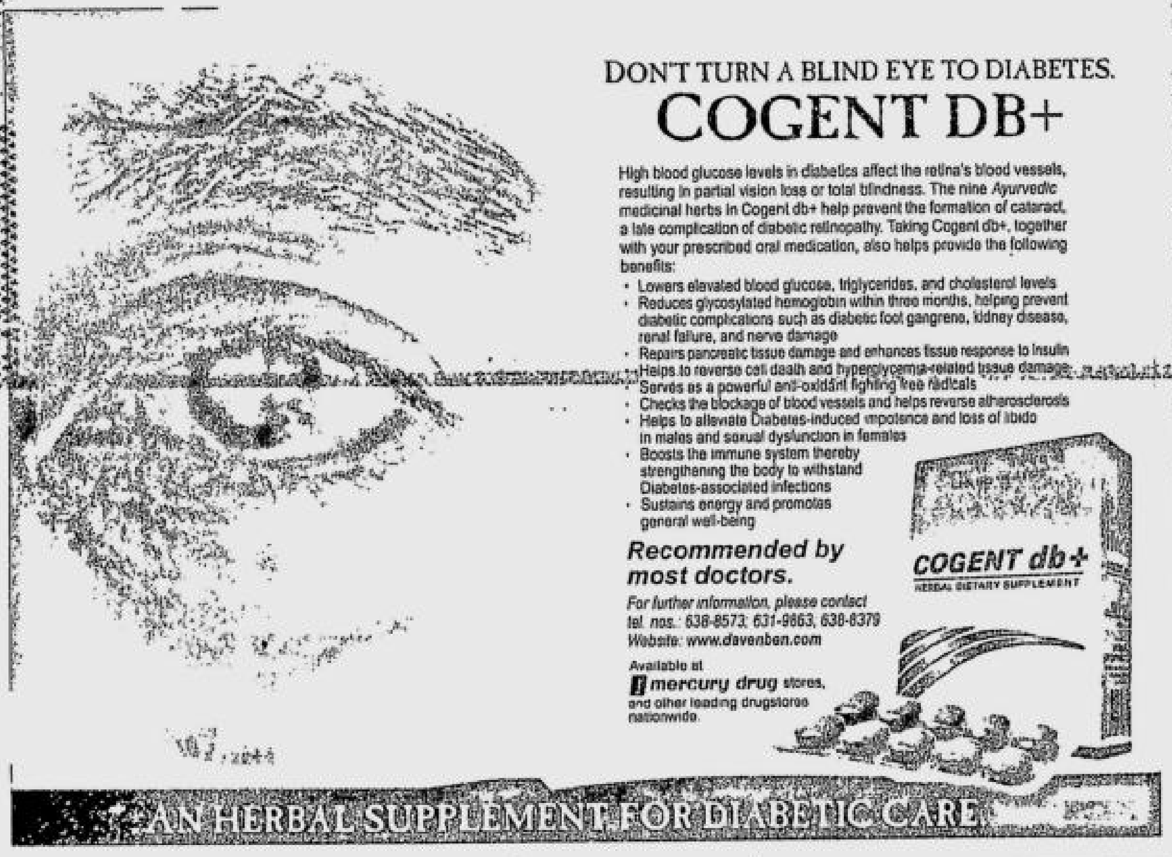
Armed men …

From page A1

aired reports and commentaries that condemned military abuses.

But Lt. Col. Leopoldo Galon Jr., spokesperson of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, said the military had no hand in the incident and described the accusation as "absurd."

"The communists will readily accuse the [Armed Forces of the Philippines] of anything. You have to understand that the AFP is the foremost organization that stands in their way toward gaining political power," said Galon. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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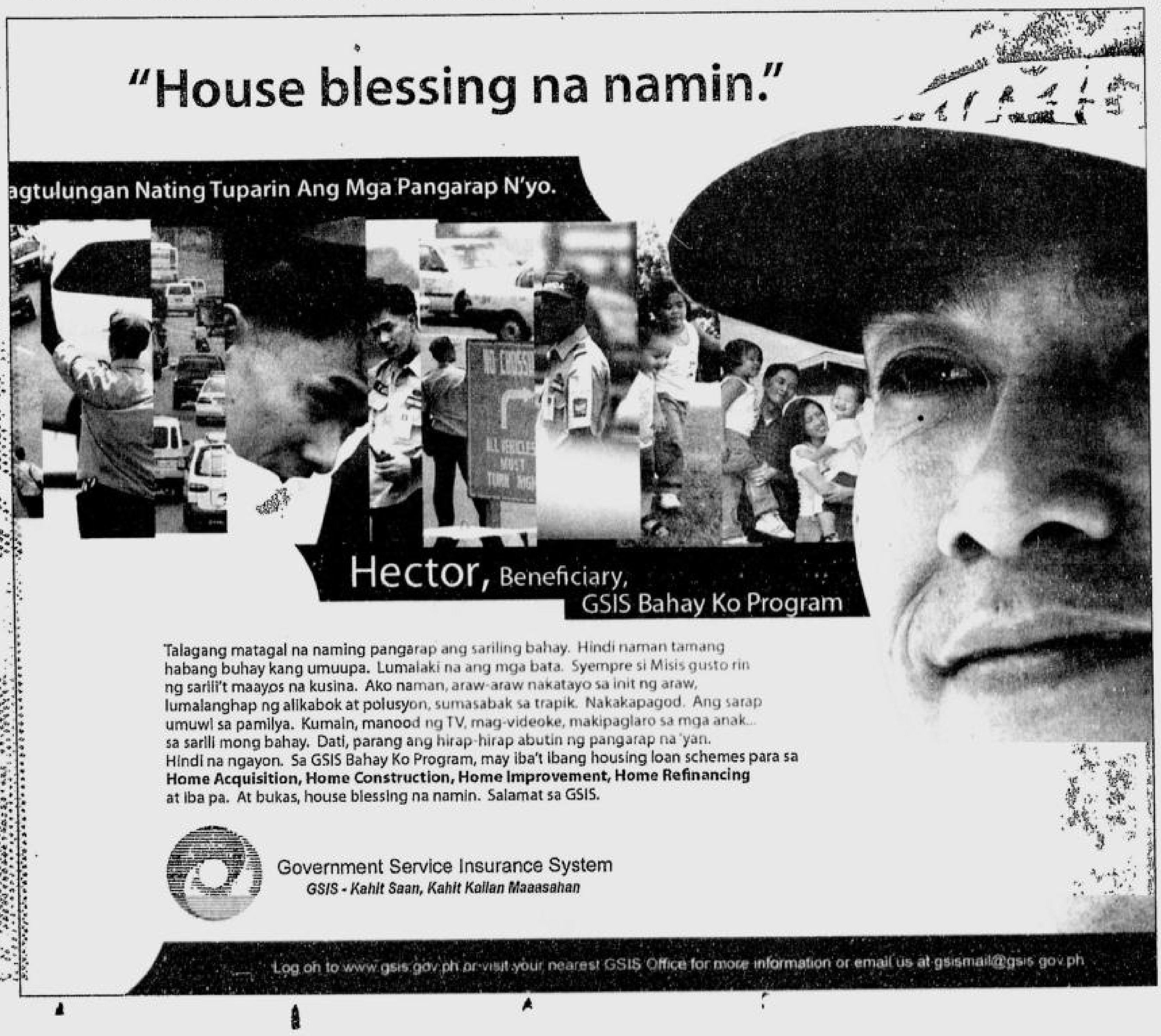
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Hector, Beneficiary, GSIS Bahay Ko Program

Talagang matagal na naming pangarap ang sariling bahay. Hindi naman tamang habang buhay kang umuupa. Lumalaki na ang mga bata. Syempre si Misis gusto rin ng sarili't maayos na kusina. Ako naman, araw-araw nakatayo sa init ng araw, lumalanghap ng alikabok at polusyon, sumasabak sa trapik. Nakakapagod. Ang sarap umuwi sa pamilya. Kumain, manood ng TV, mag-videoke, makipaglaro sa mga anak... sa sarili mong bahay. Dati, parang ang hirap-hirap abutin ng pangarap na 'yan. Hindi na ngayon. Sa GSIS Bahay Ko Program, may iba't ibang housing loan schemes para sa **Home Acquisition, Home Construction, Home Improvement, Home Refinancing** at iba pa. At bukas, house blessing na namin. Salamat sa GSIS.

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124 Fil-Ams take up RP citizenship

A TOTAL OF 124 FILIPINO-AMERICANS IN THE states of Oregon and Washington took their oath to become Filipino citizens again under the dual citizenship law during a five-day consular outreach program of the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco.

The consulate approved 53 applications in Portland, Oregon; 68 in Seattle and three in Wapato in the Yakima Valley in Washington, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

A four-man consular team led by Vice Consul Anthony Mandap conducted the consular outreach program in Portland, Seattle and Wapato from June 14 to 18.

The bulk of the consular services consisted of applications for dual citizenship by Fil-Ams, according to Consul General Maria Rowena Sanchez.

"Demand for these services increased dramatically since November last year, when the requirements for application were relaxed to allow the submission of substitute documents in lieu of a birth certificate authenticated by the National Statistics Office," Sanchez said.

Sanchez said that "for the first time," 79 qualified Filipinos residing in these areas registered as overseas absentee voters—38 in Portland, 32 in Seattle and nine in Wapato.

Wapato is an Indian reservation located more than 100 miles east of Seattle and home to more than a thousand Filipinos, majority of whom trace their roots to the Ilocos region.

Ilocano farm workers migrated to Wapato in the 1920s, the DFA said.

The consular services in Wapato were conducted at the 50-year-old Filipino Community Center, followed by a program where among the topics the embassy representatives discussed were trade and tourism opportunities in the Philippines.

The Filipino community of Yakima Valley organized the event.

"The valley is best known as the source of the world-renowned Washington apples, which Filipino migrant farmhands have helped produce over the decades," the DFA said. *Nikko Dizon*

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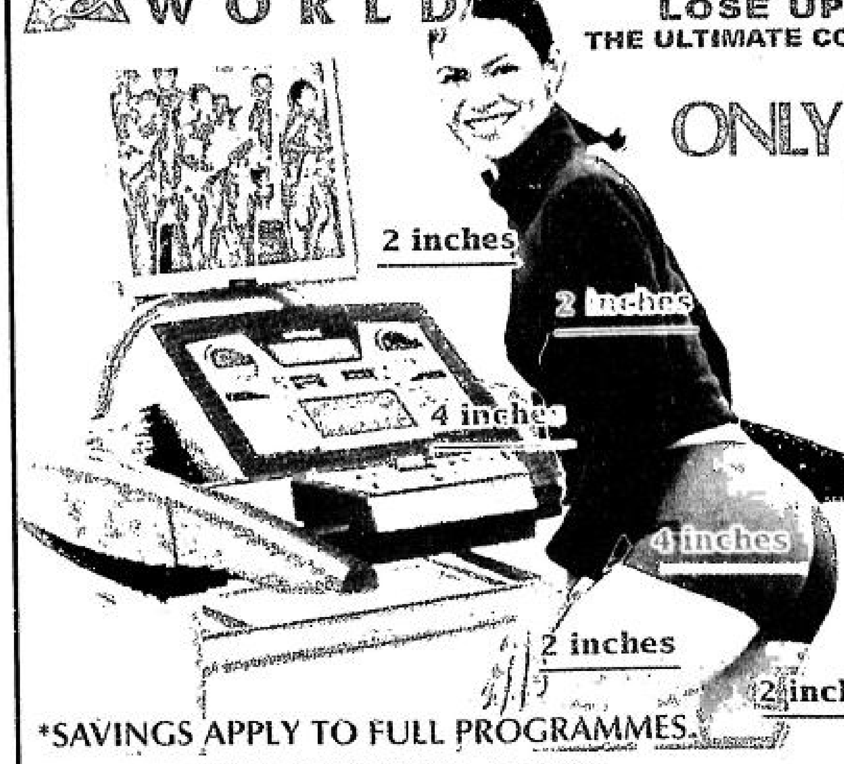

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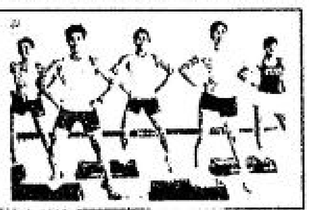

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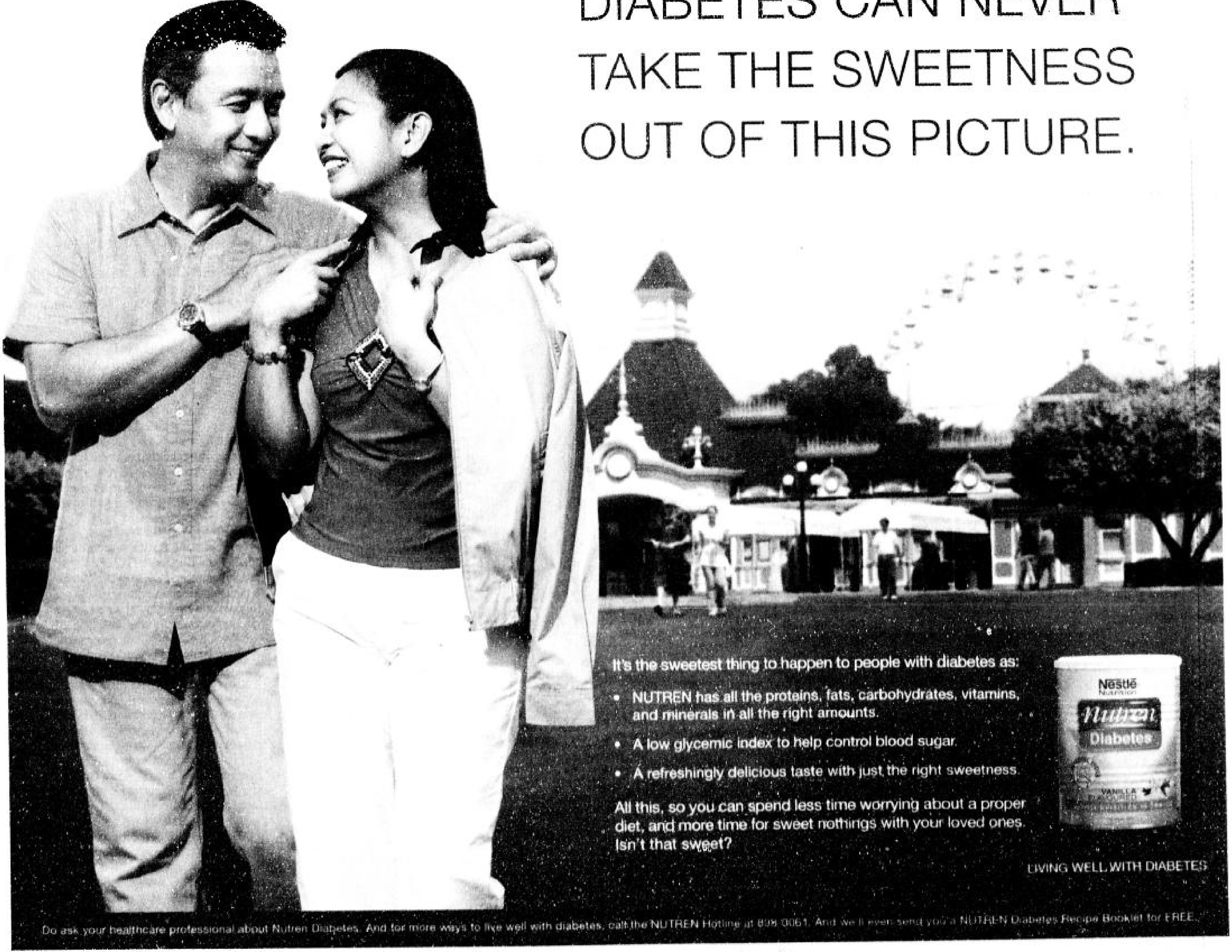

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Let us not deceive the Filipino people!

Sigaw ng Bayan launched its drive for reform three months ago—on the proposition that our country would be better-off changing its political structure and system of government.

No one has challenged our judgment that the presidential system with a bicameral Congress has failed our people. We have *not* heard a single strong argument in its defense—given the grinding poverty of our people in many regions, and the destructive political structure presidential government has bred for seven decades. The truth is there is no single argument for this country to continue under a failed and flawed system—*other than the senators' individual ambitions to seek the presidency.*

Sigaw ng Bayan—backed by ten million citizens and the nationwide network of local governments—offers an alternative political structure we believe can rescue our country from 70 years of false starts and failed prophets.

Sigaw ng Bayan wants our country under a unicameral parliamentary government. Experience in every region around the globe has shown that this system works best in any country under any culture.

Old and new democracies have parliamentary governments

The record shows that most of the emerging democracies in the 20th century have embraced the parliamentary system—because it makes for efficient, open, program-based, and party-based government.

The more than eight million overseas Filipinos who've left this chronically backward country for better opportunities and a higher quality of life abroad—could not have chosen better. They have relocated in countries that are wealthy and have strong social programs and long-term stability because they are run by efficient parliamentary governments. We find large Filipino communities in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan and South Korea. They are also in Italy, Spain, England, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. They are in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

A system controlled by power brokers is not a genuine democracy

We want to shift the country to a parliamentary system—and a unicameral legislature—to put it on a similar trajectory toward long-term economic progress and political stability.

This would be impossible to achieve—unless we dismantle the chronically negligent Senate, and the present political system that favors only the elite, the power brokers, and big-time financiers who bankroll their own candidates, and then manipulate elections and their results. Anyone who insists that there is genuine democracy under this system is a hypocrite.

Sigaw ng Bayan is the national conscience stirring to life at last. Our goal is to put an end to this chronic misery.

We are *not* just occasional political and social activists.

We are constitutional warriors speaking for the downtrodden, the marginalized, and the majority who have decided they can no longer continue to suffer in silence.

What we seek to achieve

In seeking amendments to the 1987 Constitution, ***Sigaw ng Bayan*** has a clear vision of what it wants to achieve:

- ***Our people will vote for the leader of the nation and of the Government.*** Every Member of Parliament—elected by our people in each legislative district—has a fair and equal chance to become Prime Minister—or Cabinet Minister in the Government that shall be directly—and daily—responsible to the people who voted the Government to power.
- We are not about to extend indefinitely the tenure of those already in power. In fact, ***we are leveling the political playing field. We will synchronize elections every five years—eliminating huge expenditures and election campaigns that cost billions, which only the wealthy few can afford.*** Without Charter amendments, the elite political dynasties, which the 1987 Charter has not wiped out, will continue to dominate national and local politics.
- ***The 2007 elections will proceed as scheduled***—as already settled by Charter reform proponents, including the House of Representatives, which voted overwhelmingly to stick to the election cycle.
- We are *not* about to create a powerful Interim Parliament and a super-President with additional powers of a Prime Minister. Under the present Constitution, we already have an extremely powerful President. Under the proposed Charter amendments, we are clipping the powers of the President, part of which shall then be exercised by the Prime Minister. ***The President—who remains as chief executive—will share her powers with the Prime Minister, who shall run the day-to-day affairs of government as chief operating officer. The President and the Prime Minister are two different persons—not one and the same.*** The OneVoice movement is totally wrong in making this claim.

- We are not about to weaken the Supreme Court. In fact, it ***shall remain a bulwark of our democracy.***

The new Constitution shall also achieve the following (which the elite have not addressed):

- ***Eliminate turncoatism—which is the root cause of our negative political culture.*** *Wala nang mga balimbing*: no more promiscuous party-switching. Our goal is to restore the primacy of party-based programs so that the dominant political party—when elected to power—shall be responsible for the program of government.
- ***Create a responsible opposition party in parliament whose members shall fully exercise their role*** as the best check to the majority party in a parliamentary government.

Unless we change the structure of government—and remove the restrictive economic provisions in the 1987 Charter—the Philippines will remain trapped in a web of destructive political culture, backbiting, fault-finding, and an economy that cannot compete with the best of Asia and the world.

To those who misrepresent our views, we say:

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Recall cases, join us, solons tell impeach proponents

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ADMINISTRATION CAMP HAS CALLED on the opposition to recall the four impeachment complaints filed last week against President Macapagal-Arroyo and to join a unity government.

But the House minority refused and even challenged Ms Arroyo to a rematch via the impeachment process.

Stop hiding under the skirt of "invented technicalities" and face the issues head on, the opposition said.

The impeachment bid was the "worst publicity" for the country, according to Representatives Exequiel Javier of Antique and Rodito Albano III of Isabela, who had accompanied the President on her Europe trip.

Javier said the impeachment bid was the "handiwork" of former President Joseph Estrada "to satisfy his hunger for vengeance and power."

Albano called on the "opposition to forget their negative politics and join the administration in pushing for propoor and prodevelopment programs."

He said the President was working hard to encourage European businessmen to invest their money in the country.

Working hard

"It's really unfair to the President. Despite all her hard work and sacrifice, the opposition continues to work against her and has maliciously filed a new impeachment bid," Albano said.

Both lawmakers agreed with Trade Secretary Peter Favila that negative reports only served to hurt the country's image abroad.

Javier said the impeachment drive was being used as a campaign tool by senatorial wannabes in the 2007 polls and was part of Estrada's oust-Arroyo plan.

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said he was not surprised by the administration's offer to join a unity government.

"The President has consistently refused to initiate genuine reforms. By buying people—that's how she intends to get out of any problems she [and her allies are] facing," Cayetano said.

He added that it had been a "consistent" administration policy to offer juicy government positions and projects to Ms Arroyo's critics, instead of answering the issues.

"She does not do unto others what she wants others to do unto her. There's one set of rules for Gloria and her allies and another set of rules for the rest of the country," Cayetano said.

Students seek clarification on impeachment

By Alcuin Papa

MILITANT STUDENTS HAS CHALLENGED the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) to endorse seminars that would explain to students and teachers the issues in the new impeachment complaints filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The CHEd had earlier agreed to the holding of Charter change seminars in colleges and universities conducted by known Cha-cha advocates, an arrangement deplored by the Kabataan Party.

"If the CHEd really wants to enlighten students and educators on national affairs, it should start with issues hounding the Arroyo presidency that fueled the current political and economic crisis," Kabataan Party vice president Carl Marc Ramota said.

Ramota said schools were "the best alternative venues for discourse and social critique in these times when so-called democratic institutions and processes are easily manipulated to conceal the truth."

He said: "The CHEd should not allow itself to be used as a machinery for deceit. As education officials, they should put more emphasis on instilling social awareness, responsibility and involvement among the students rather than blindly following orders from higher-ups."

School caravan

The Kabataan Party, the Youth Demanding Arroyo's Removal (Youth DARE) and the youth impeachment watchdog, Impeach Monitor, will hold a nationwide school caravan starting this month to make the public aware of the grounds for the new impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

"The problems of corruption, gross human rights violations and electoral fraud are issues of paramount importance that directly affect each and every Filipino. These are the realities that students ought to know and understand first, rather than the Cha-cha proposal which deceives the public with reforms while seeking to perpetuate the present ruling clique at its practices," Ramota said.

The student leader warned of possible student unrest should the Arroyo administration and its allies in Congress prematurely kill the second impeachment bid.

"While the Arroyo government insists that we should follow the Constitution and observe the rule of law, it is using its own juridical formulas to bend the law and keep the truth from coming out. Such moves further erode the remaining confidence that the public has in our government and Constitutional processes," Ramota said.

He clarified, however, that while they would support the second impeachment bid, they were not pinning their hopes on the process.

Pinay's essay on climate change wins Tokyo honors

By Blanche S. Rivera

AN ENGINEERING PROFESSOR'S ESSAY ON climate change, whipped up in 20 minutes, had its 15 minutes of fame in Japan last week.

Carmela R. Centeno's "No More Decembers" was among the four essays cited for "particular excellence" during the 14th Eco-Asia Congress in Tokyo last week, besting more than 40 entries of university and postgraduate students from 16 other countries.

Centeno, an associate professor in the engineering department of the University of Santo Tomas, wrote about the experience of global warming in the Philippines.

"When I was young, I waited in eager anticipation for the coming of December. You see, coming from the Philippines where no snow kisses the trees in winter, I used to bask in the cold weather of the holiday season," she said in her two-page essay.

"I remembered the simple joy of going to school in my new jacket. Then there were Decembers no more," she lamented, detailing the Kyoto Protocol and the Philippine government's dismal efforts at combatting climate change.

Centeno, who is attending a research course on water and the environment at the Tokyo Institute for Technology under a Unesco program, was pleasantly surprised that she won.

"Modesty aside, in 20 minutes, I was done with the essay. I thought I had nothing to lose ... [but] I didn't think it was worth any award so I was surprised when they called me," she told the INQUIRER yesterday in a phone interview.

Compared to the technical essays of the other participants, Centeno wrote simply—like she was talking to her students.

"I always tell my students 'you know when we were younger, we would go to school wearing jackets.' But kids don't experience that anymore ... So the thought was there even before I started writing," she said.

The Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (Eco-Asia), a ministerial level congress on environmental issues in Asia and the Pacific region organized by Japan's Ministry of Environment, launched an essay-writing contest last March on the mitigating measures employed by member-countries to combat global warming. It was open to all foreign students studying in Japan.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 3, 2006
13th Week in Ordinary Time
Thomas Apostle

1st Reading: Eph 2:19-22
Gospel: John 20:24-29

Thomas, the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he replied, "Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were inside again and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors Jesus came and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands; stretch out your hand and put it into my side. Resist no longer and be a believer."

Thomas then said, "You are my Lord and my God." Jesus replied, "You believe because you see me, don't you? Happy are those who have not seen and believe."

Commentary

In Jesus we are no longer strangers or aliens but citizens of God's household and saints. We are the foundation of hope in the world, the dwelling place of God. And Jesus calls us all to show forth to the world his presence-crucified and risen. And unlike Thomas we are to listen to one another's accounts of the resurrection so that we do not stifle the work of the Spirit in the world and make the Risen Lord return to call us to task for our personal lack of belief and demands. We are blessed because we believe and have not seen.

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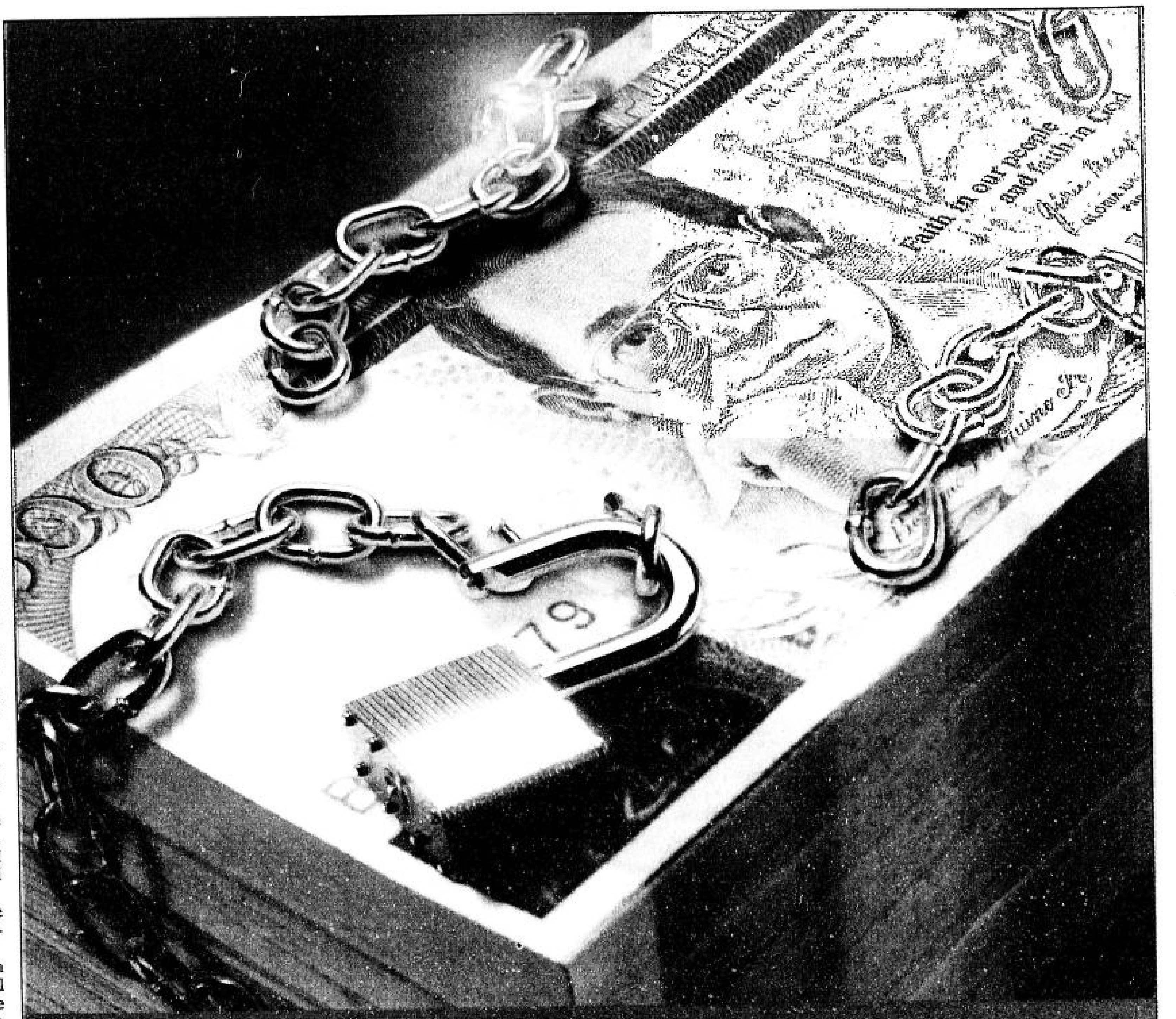

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GET READY FOR
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‘DepEd can’t feign ignorance of sex ed plan’

From page A1

plants, cucumbers or bananas for a lesson on condom use.

Rañada said she was familiar with the modules, having been a participant in the workshop on the "development of an enriched curriculum in population education for all levels" from Jan. 15 to Feb. 3, 1996.

She said she had been personally "trained" on how to put condoms on, say, eggplants when she attended a seminar on AIDS Education Modules Revision at the Imus Sports Complex in Cavite in 1994.

"The idea then was to teach teachers so they could train their students on condom use later," she said.

"The goal of the program was initially to integrate sex education in the curriculum and it has succeeded," she said. "Now, the plan is to institutionalize it with this new batch of modules."

Skirting issue

Rañada said DepEd officials were skirting the issue by claiming that the new batch of modules contained no questionable lessons.

"But how about the ones that came before them and which are still in use in our schools today?" she asked.

Rañada showed the INQUIRER copies of some of the books, such as "Resource Manual on the Growing Filipino Adolescent: A Guidance Program for Adolescent Development for High School Students (Fourth Year Series)."

Page 31 of the book asks if "too much sex (is) physically harmful."

The answer: "No, because there is no such thing as too much sex. Generally speaking and under normal circumstances, sexual intercourse and masturbation are self-limiting. When one has had enough, and this level varies from person to person, one will stop."

Rañada said such a lesson was devoid of the moral aspect of the sexual act and appeared to encourage it among high school students.

The education department is willing to revise a controversial lesson plan for sex education in public schools, DepEd officer in charge Fe Hidalgo said yesterday.

DepEd-CBCP dialogue

Hidalgo made the statement ahead of a meeting with the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) scheduled for today at the DepEd central office in Pasig City.

Earlier, Dr. Angelita Aguirre, head of the prolife Human Life International, objected to the lesson plan because it omitted the fact that condom use did not ensure full protection from sexually transmitted diseases.

She said parents and not teachers should be responsible for teaching their youngsters about sex.

The complaint prompted the department to temporarily withdraw the lesson plans, which had been distributed to two pilot schools in Metro Manila—the Parañaque High School and Pateros National High School.

Open to suggestions

At the meeting, the two sides are expected to iron out their differences even as the DepEd had said it was determined to distribute the lesson plans to the public schools.

"We are open to suggestions. If it will help to better promote and teach proper reproductive health among today's youth, we are open to it. And also to free the topic from any negative connotations," Hidalgo said.

She acknowledged that discussions about the use of contraceptives were indeed part of the lesson plan on "value safe sex education."

But Hidalgo said the DepEd would listen to suggestions from the CBCP on how to discuss the use of contraceptives among students and take into consideration the fact that the Philippines is a predominantly Catholic country.

Reproductive health

Hidalgo said the DepEd preferred to use the term "adolescent reproductive health" (ARH) over "sex education" in the module.

The DepEd will also incorporate population education concepts into subjects like Health, English, Science, Filipino, Technology and Livelihood Education, and Araling Panlipunan.

Hidalgo said the inclusion of the ARH in these subjects was aimed at educating young adults on their "physical, mental and social well-being."

"The reproductive health needs of this group should be based on information that helps them attain a level of maturity required to make responsible decisions," she said.

The subject, Hidalgo explained, would be taught in English to save teachers the trouble of using Filipino words, which may be offensive to teachers and students.

Premarital sex

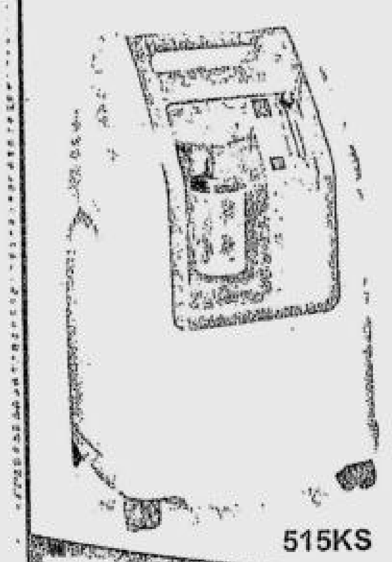
Earlier, Hidalgo denied that the DepEd was promoting premarital sex by discussing the use of condoms and other contraceptives.

"We are not tolerating premarital sex. We do not even encourage this. What we are doing is telling them the consequences of such acts and what should be done. We are more suggestive in tone," she said.

Hidalgo also noted a survey which found that a growing number of youngsters were engaging in premarital sex. This was one reason the department had taken steps to inform students about issues related to sex.

The Young Adult Fertility Survey III by the University of the Philippines Population Institute found that in 2003, 23 percent of adolescents, aged 15 to 24 years old, already had sex, up from 18 percent in 1994.

The survey also found that overall risky sexual behavior increased from 20 percent in 1994 to 27 percent in 2002.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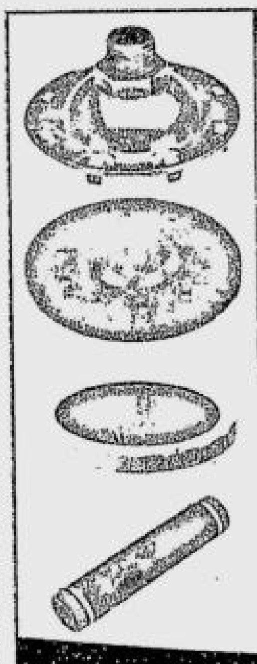
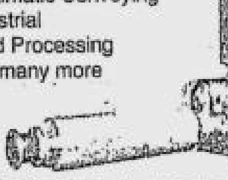
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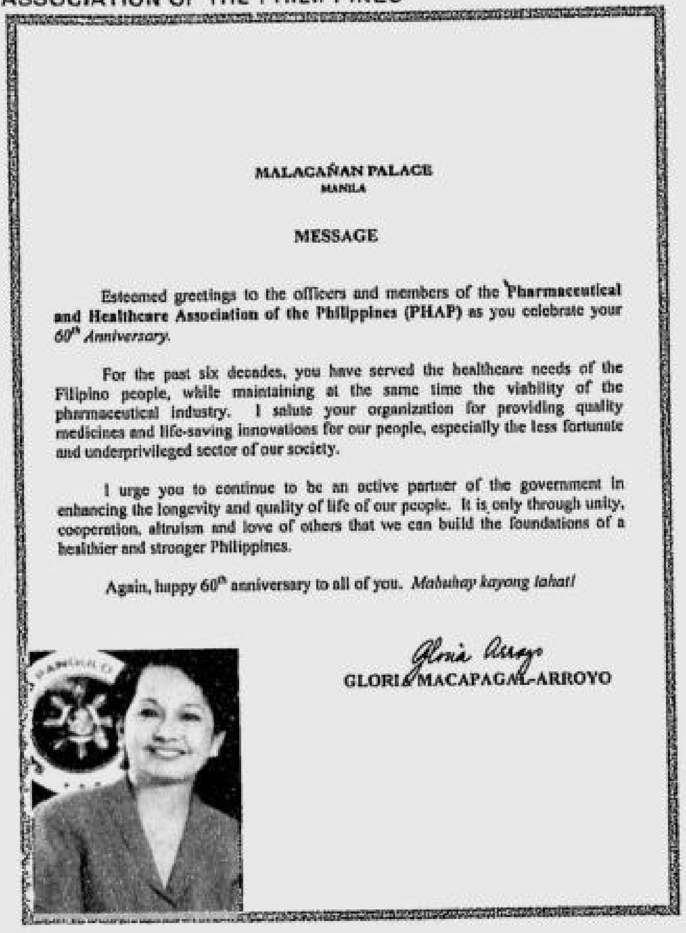


MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

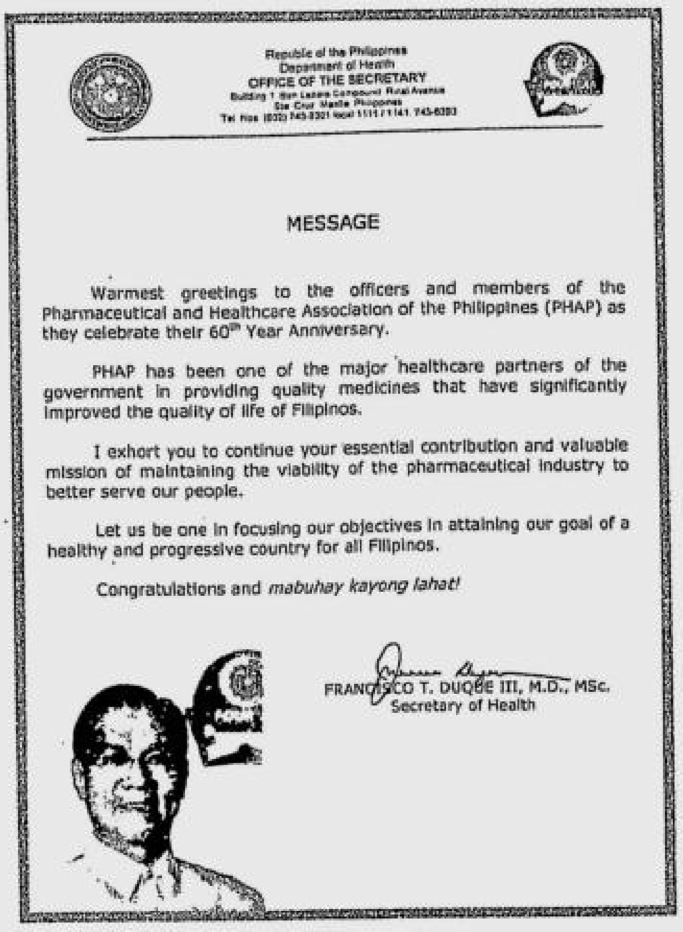
Esteemed greetings to the officers and members of the **Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP)** as you celebrate your *60th Anniversary.*

For the past six decades, you have served the healthcare needs of the Filipino people, while maintaining at the same time the viability of the pharmaceutical industry. I salute your organization for providing quality medicines and life-saving innovations for our people, especially the less fortunate and underprivileged sector of our society.

I urge you to continue to be an active partner of the government in enhancing the longevity and quality of life of our people. It is only through unity, cooperation, altruism and love of others that we can build the foundations of a healthier and stronger Philippines.

Again, happy 60th anniversary to all of you. *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Sta Cruz Manila Philippines

MESSAGE

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) as they celebrate their 60th Year Anniversary.

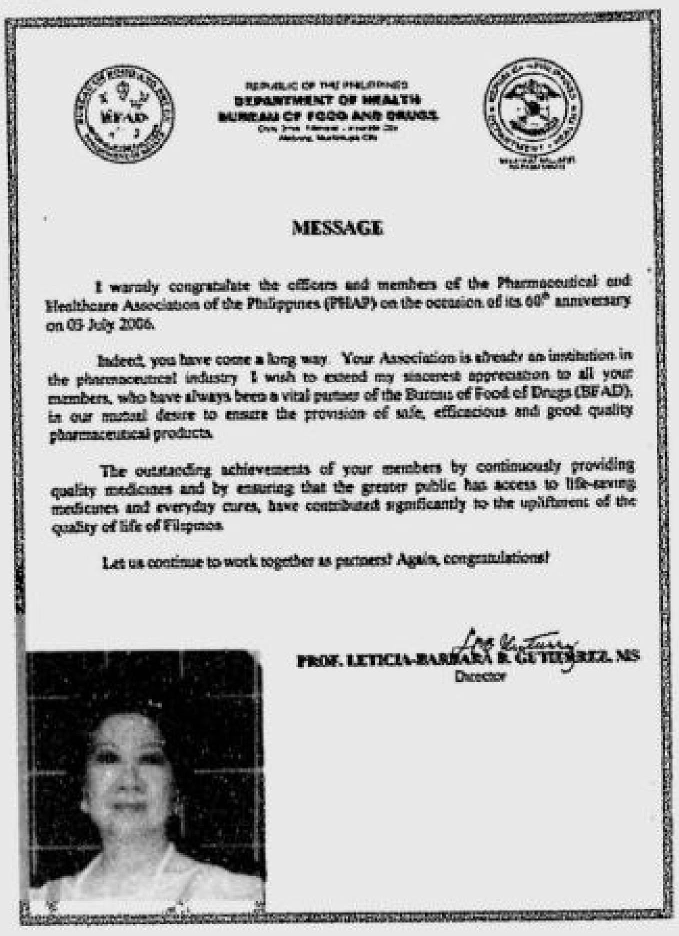
PHAP has been one of the major healthcare partners of the government in providing quality medicines that have significantly improved the quality of life of Filipinos.

I exhort you to continue your essential contribution and valuable mission of maintaining the viability of the pharmaceutical industry to better serve our people.

Let us be one in focusing our objectives in attaining our goal of a healthy and progressive country for all Filipinos.

Congratulations and *mabuhay kayong lahat!*

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS

MESSAGE

I warmly congratulate the officers and members of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) on the occasion of its 60th anniversary on 03 July 2006.

Indeed, you have come a long way. Your Association is already an institution in the pharmaceutical industry. I wish to extend my sincerest appreciation to all your members, who have always been a vital partner of the Bureau of Food of Drugs (BFAD), in our mutual desire to ensure the provision of safe, efficacious and good quality pharmaceutical products.

The outstanding achievements of your members by continuously providing quality medicines and by ensuring that the greater public has access to life-saving medicines and everyday cures, have contributed significantly to the upliftment of the quality of life of Filipinos.

Let us continue to work together as partners! Again, congratulations!

PROF. LETICIA-BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, MS
Director

Industry Highlights

- **Research-based industry.** The Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) and its 63 member companies represent the research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare industry, a key sector in the never-ending fight for improved health through the continuous development of new, better, more efficacious and cost-effective drug therapies. In the 20th and the 21st centuries, the world has seen remarkable medical advances, including cures for some of the most feared diseases. Many of these advances – such as defeating polio, smallpox and measles, and significant progress in the treatment of hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes and other conditions – have been due to the discoveries of new therapies.

- **Innovative, life-saving medicines.** These new therapies include revolutionary, life-saving discoveries that define the cutting edge of medical science, and bring economic and social benefits to populations in both developed and developing countries. Innovative medicines and treatments save lives, give new hope for the future, and give patients and doctors more options in healthcare. These therapies can help control overall health spending by helping patients stay healthier and avoid costly hospitalizations that may involve surgery.

- **The role of R & D.** Research and development (R & D) that results in new therapies involves considerable costs. In the United States, research-based pharmaceutical companies spent US$ 39.4 Billion for R & D in 2005 alone. Only one of every 10,000 potential new drugs investigated by America's research-based pharmaceutical companies makes it through the research and development pipeline and is approved for patient use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. On average, obtaining regulatory approval for a new drug takes 15 years of R & D and costs over $800 million dollars.

- **Value of new drugs.** The value of new and better medicines derives not only from the improved treatment of disease, but also from a reduction in other health care costs, increased productivity and better quality of life.

- **Providing the bulk of the country's medicines.** PHAP member companies provide the bulk of the country's pharmaceuticals, nutritionals, large-volume parenterals and medical devices. At last count, the PHAP membership accounted for over 70% of sales to drugstores and hospital pharmacies, and over 85% of industry sales at the distribution level.

- **Industry competition.** Competition in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry – indeed among PHAP Member Companies – is vigorous, since there are various drugs available in every therapeutic class. Apart from competing with generic drugs, new medicines also compete against each other. The competition has increased, with the duration in which a new medicine is on the market decreasing before another competing medicine in the same therapeutic class is introduced. The competition is beneficial to patients, since not every patient responds to every drug in the same way. The availability of different drugs in every therapeutic class, especially new medicines, provides better treatment choices for individual patients, lowers risks of complications, improves patient compliance with treatment, and develops greater competition.

- **Global affiliations.** The PHAP is the only member in the country of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) and the World Self-Medication Industry (WSMI). The IFPMA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) representing industry associations in both developed and developing countries; IFPMA member companies are the major global research-based pharmaceutical and vaccine companies. The World Self-Medication Industry (WSMI) is a global federation of associations representing manufacturers and distributors of non-prescription medicines, which seeks to promote better health through responsible self-medication. The IFPMA and the WSMI are NGOs in official relations with the World Health Organization.

- **Belief in partnership for healthcare.** The PHAP is committed to working in partnership with both the public and the private sectors to improve access to quality healthcare, particularly medicines, for all Filipinos.

- **Access to quality medicines.** Pharmaceutical access is defined as the timely availability, subject to economic and physical conditions, of quality medicines to those patients who need them. A host of interrelated factors determine the level of access to quality medicines, such as the availability of financial resources, government policies, infrastructure conditions, private and public sector insurance programs, appropriate use, supply management and manufacturing capacity.

- **Multi-sectoral cooperation in addressing healthcare issues.** Experience worldwide has shown that multi-stakeholder initiatives have proven to be the most efficient and effective way of improving health status with regard to the problem of access to quality medicines, particularly where there is significant poverty incidence. The costs of healthcare are a priority concern to policy makers, the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry, healthcare professionals and providers, and not the least, consumers. The PHAP and its Member Companies welcome multi-sectoral cooperation in addressing such healthcare issues. Only through rational analysis based on facts taken in proper context, as well as healthy and open debate, can workable solutions be developed to benefit Filipinos.

PHAP President's Message

The 60th Anniversary of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) is a testament to the crucial and necessary role of the sector it represents, one which enables access for Filipinos to high-quality, innovation-based therapies that save lives and safeguard health, that over the years have played a significant part in combating the leading causes of mortality and morbidity in the country, while helping to enhance average life expectancies and improve quality of life.

Pharmaceutical and healthcare companies have a unique character, since even while they must ensure their success as businesses in order to survive, the nature of their products and services often makes the difference between life or death and illness or well-being, with economic and social implications that subject them to constant scrutiny from consumers, media, regulatory authorities, legislators and other interest groups.

Given such an environment, the industry in the Philippines, as well as all over the world, has realized over the years that complex issues and problems of healthcare involving entire populations can only be addressed effectively through concerted and equitable efforts by all stakeholders that recognize realities and the legitimate interests of all concerned.

Therefore, on the occasion of the PHAP's Diamond Anniversary, on behalf of our Member Companies, we reaffirm our strong commitment to continuing cooperation and dialogue with all our partners in the public and private sectors, as we pursue the goal of delivering the best quality of healthcare possible to all Filipinos.

Over The Years

The origins of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) date back to July 3, 1946. On that day a group of 10 men, each representing a leading pharmaceutical wholesaler in the country, established the Philippine Wholesale Druggist Association.

The Association's founders were John Magda of the Philippine American Drug Company (Boie), who had invited nine colleagues to meet at his office in San Vicente, Manila; Elias Picker of Oceanic Commercial; Ciriaco A. Santiago of Hermoso Drug Store; Armando L. Vellila of Marsman and Company; Horacio Guanzon of Farmacia Oro; Leon Dolor of Dolor's Pharmacy; Yu Siu Tek of Yucuanseh Drug Company; Jose Teehankee, Jr. of Farmacia Central; William Ty of Farmacia Oriental; and Manuel Galatas of Metro Drug Corporation.

On July 27, 1950, during a meeting at the Squibb Building then located in Intramuros, the organization was renamed the Drug Association of the Philippines, by which it was to be known for the next 40 years. Membership in the non-stock, non-profit association was expanded to include pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Early in 1991, the organization's name was changed to the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) to signify a wider representation of pharmaceutical and related healthcare companies.

From its post-war beginnings as a sector engaged in wholesale and importation of finished products, the country's pharmaceutical industry as represented by the PHAP has evolved into one with an important role in the economy, in society and in the healthcare community in particular.

The growth of the PHAP over sixty years has reflected the development of the pharmaceutical industry in the Philippines, a sector which is a pillar of healthcare for Filipinos.

PHAP CARES
FOUNDATION, INC.

Reaching Out to Those in Need

On July 10, 2003, the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines launched its social outreach arm, the PHAPCares Foundation, Inc. The launch was highlighted by a "Pledge of Donation" signifying the commitment of PHAPCares to donate Php 100 million worth of essential medicines annually to the Department of Health (DOH), for distribution to indigent patients through 72 hospitals nationwide, free of charge.

Under a protocol, PHAPCares courses all product donations from PHAP Member Companies through the DOH Program Secretariat. Upon receipt of donated stocks, the DOH Secretariat then implements an allocation system based on the actual requirements of DOH-retained hospitals in various parts of the country

PHAPCares has been recognized as a "donee institution" by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC), an umbrella organization of several NGO networks designated by the Department of Finance as the accrediting entity to determine the qualification of NGOs to avail of tax incentives.

The establishment of PHAPCares marks the first time in the country that an association of multinational and local pharmaceutical and healthcare companies has formed a service-oriented, non-profit foundation to partner with the public sector and other NGOs in improving access to quality essential medicines.

Even prior to establishing PHAPCares, the PHAP has continuously engaged in various outreach programs to benefit the disadvantaged, such as providing financial support to doctors in rural areas where no medical care previously existed, supporting the government's anti-polio and anti-measles vaccination programs over the years, and providing free medicines in times of calamity.

The PHAPCares staff is headed by Executive Director Glecy Cuenco.

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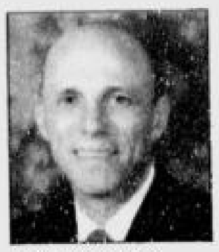

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Sitting (left to right) PHAP AVP Eufe Tantia; PHAP EVP & CEO Leo Wassmer, Jr.; and PHAPCares Executive Director Glecy Cuenco with the PHAP Secretariat staff (left to right) MRAP Proj. Coordinator Karen dela Torre; Procurement/ Messenger Cecil Mendioro; Secretary to AVP Edith Eugenio; Accountant Maricar Atienza; Research Associate Marimar Montemayor; Exec. Asst. to EVP & CEO Carol Eusebio; Receptionist/ Messenger Ramon Flores; PHAPCares Donation Officer Emerson Querimit; and former Finance & Admin. Asst. Sarah Cosme.

Rights victims rap gov't for blocking compensation

By Michael Lim Ubac

HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS HAVE ACcused the government of blocking the payment of "just compensation" due them for the abuses they suffered during the dark days of martial law.

"It's ironic that we obtained justice abroad, yet our country which is supposed to defend and protect us is now obstructing justice," said 61-year-old Hilda Narciso who was raped and tortured by military men in 1984 when she was 36 years old.

Narciso joined party-list Rep. Etta Rosales and lawyer Rod Domingo Jr., acting chair and counsel of Claimants 1081, respectively, at a press conference to ask the government to withdraw its opposition to the Hawaii 9th circuit court order on June 27 to partially indemnify the Marcos victims.

Judge Manuel Real had authorized the payment of $2,000 each to the 7,503 victims but the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) promptly secured a stay order and filed a petition to reopen the case.

Narciso, who was imprisoned for six months without charges, asked why the PCGG again sought a "re-hearing" of the case—the 9th appeal it lodged in the American courts.

No justice

"This contradicts the government's pronouncement that it's supportive of our case. So there's no justice in this country," said Narciso, stressing that the Philippine government should instead help the victims seek justice "but it did not happen here."

"Justice would never be complete without punishing the perpetrators, or paying the irreversible damage done to the victims," Narciso added.

Rosales said President Macapagal-Arroyo should stop blocking the partial award of the $35 million the claimants won in 1995 by ordering the PCGG's American lawyers to withdraw their petition.

According to Rosales, both the Constitution and the international covenant on civil and political rights, to which the country is a signatory, called for compensation for rights victims.

Historical breakthrough

"This is the first ruling declaring the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos guilty of human rights violations," said Rosales, stressing it was a "historical breakthrough in the enhancement of international human rights and justice."

Rosales said the Philippine government had already spent $1 million in legal fees for the American lawyers just to deprive Filipino victims of "just compensation."

According to Domingo, it could take about two to three months for the petition to be resolved.

"It's both pathetic and unfortunate that the 7,500 victims can't immediately get hold of this miniscule partial distribution," said Domingo, describing the victims as "mostly destitute, poor and impoverished."

Show compassion

He asked Ms Arroyo to "show compassion to the victims, not to Marcos torturers and the human rights violators who seek to compromise with the PCGG."

"It isn't just sad, it's a tragedy that the government wants to prevent the poorest of its citizens from recovering from the brutal human rights violations," said lead counsel Robert Swift in a statement.

Claimants 1081 was organized by thousands of human rights victims who won in 1995 a class suit against the Marcos estate in a Hawaii District Court amounting to $2 billion.

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Masinloc bidder loses $14-M bond

By Abigail L. Ho

THE $14-MILLION PERFORMANCE bond posted by winning bidder YNN Pacific Consortium Inc. for the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales was finally forfeited in favor of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) after the consortium failed to remit the $227-million down payment for the plant on June 30.

Psalm, the government agency tasked with privatizing the assets of the National Power Corp. had thrice extended the deadline for YNN to pay the 40-percent down payment for its $561.7-million winning bid for the Masinloc plant.

The consortium won the bid to buy the plant in December 2004.

The original deadline to remit the $227 million to Psalm was on Dec. 2, 2005. Psalm later moved the deadline to March 31 and then to June 30.

Psalm had extended the deadline on condition that YNN increased its performance bond to $14 million from the original $11 million.

The deadline was pushed back to June 30 to allow the entry of a new investor, Malaysian conglomerate Ranhill Bhd, into YNN.

But on Friday, Psalm decided not to grant another extension to YNN.

Psalm said the forfeiture of the performance bond meant that the Masinloc plant would be "re-bid at the appropriate time if conditions warrant."

In a statement, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that Psalm could have just forfeited YNN's $11-million performance bond last March 31.

However, after assessing the situation, the Psalm board concluded that YNN's $561.7-million winning bid would be hard to match should the Masinloc plant be placed on the auction block again, he said.

He noted that the only other bidder, First Generation Corp., submitted a bid of only $274.85 million, less than half YNN's bid and 30 percent lower than Psalm's reserve price of $388 million.

Psalm pointed out that the government actually gained from giving YNN a three-month deadline extension as this involved a higher performance bond of $14 million.

"The increase of the bid bond by an additional $3 million as a result of the board decision to wait three more months increased the collectible amount to 27 percent, a yield that any financial analyst would assess as a good yield over the short period of three months," Psalm said.

Psalm earlier drew flak from various sectors, including legislators and militant groups, after extending YNN's deadline instead of immediately forfeiting the $11-million performance bond when it failed to meet the first two deadlines. *With TJ Burgonio*

Jimenez gives cash, groceries

DIGOS CITY—FORMER Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez is at it again.

After donating P50 million to planholders of Pacific Plans and doling out cash to Ilocos Sur residents during the birthday of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Jimenez went to Mindanao to do the same.

On Friday, he distributed cash and groceries to at least 7,500 families here.

The distribution was overseen by Rep. Claude Bautista of the second district of Davao del Sur and his brother, Gov. Benjamin Bautista Jr.

Jimenez and the Bautistas are allies.

Representative Bautista said those who received cash and groceries, totaling P3 million, were families affected by the recent floods in Davao del Sur.

But he clarified that not all of the affected families received cash. He said others only got groceries.

"Only those whose houses were swept away by the floods got P10,000 each," Bautista said.

Reports from the city disaster coordinating council said seven houses were swept away by floods that hit the city two weeks ago. No casualties were reported.

Bautista said there was no politics behind Jimenez's "assistance."

He said the former Manila solon was only responding to a request by his brother following Mayor Arsenio Latasa's appeal for assistance in the wake of the floods.

"Upon learning what happened, Jimenez told us to prepare a massive relief assistance distribution at the soonest possible time," Bautista said.

Eldie Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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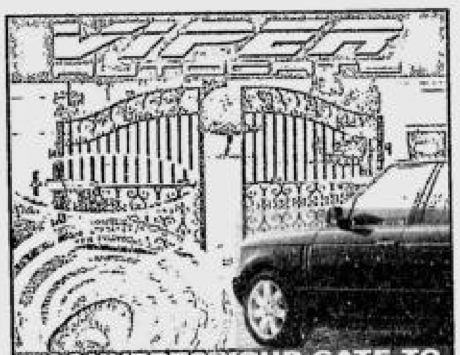

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OPINION

'Merceditas Rules'

EDITORIAL

LIKE A SCHOOLBOY SLIPPING HIS HOMEWORK under the teacher's door a few minutes before deadline, the Office of the Ombudsman last Friday finally complied with a Supreme Court directive to determine the criminal liability of officials and private citizens involved in the anomalous Mega Pacific election automation contract. The findings by the anti-graft agency came two and a half years after the high court voided the Commission on Elections contract and issued its directive. Were they worth the wait?

On June 30, the final deadline the court set for Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to reach her conclusions, the Office of the Ombudsman issued a resolution "which contained [according to the agency's press statement] factual findings that can be used by the House of Representatives to initiate impeachment proceedings against Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra."

The Ombudsman also ordered the dismissal of the five members of the Comelec Bids and Awards Committee which qualified the winning but ineligible bidder, Mega Pacific Consortium; prepared the filing of charges against the committee members before the Sandiganbayan; and recommended the filing of criminal charges against the eight incorporators of the consortium.

Speaking through Acting Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro, the Ombudsman's office explained that Borra, once executive director of the Comelec before being appointed as one of seven commissioners, was liable "for allowing the Comelec's Bids and Awards Committee to declare Mega-Pacific Consortium eligible to participate in the bidding process for the project, for allowing the material deviation from the bidding requirements, and for recommending to the BAC that the award be given to the MPC despite its ineligibility and technical failure."

The controversial contract awarding the project to Mega Pacific was approved by the Comelec itself on April 15, 2003, and signed by Chair Benjamin Abalos, Borra, Florentino Tuason Jr. and four other commissioners who are now retired: Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain.

But Gutierrez said further investigation was needed to determine the liability of the other commissioners. "We are still [at the] the fact-finding level with regards to the other commissioners. We want to do a thorough investigation in order not to commit injustice."

Curiously, however, the latest (and belated) resolution offered a suddenly narrow view of the Ombudsman's constitutional mandate. Casimiro said the Ombudsman was referring Borra's case to Congress, because the anti-graft agency had no jurisdiction over impeachable officials like Borra. "We are placing him at the disposal of the House of Representatives," Casimiro said.

This new legal principle deserves its own name, so let's call it the first Merceditas Rule. Contrary to what is expressly stated in the Constitution (in Article XI) and elaborated on in RA 6770 (the "Ombudsman Act of 1989"), the first Merceditas Rule declares all impeachable officials—that is, public officials who can be removed from office only through impeachment—off limits, or out of reach of the Ombudsman's long arm.

In the Constitution's listing of the Ombudsman's "powers, functions and duties," the scope of responsibility covers "any act or omission of any public official when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper, or inefficient." The inclusive language is repeated in RA 6770; nothing in the Constitution or the statute prevents the Ombudsman from acting against impeachable officials. After all, the privilege of impeachability does not grant a high official immunity against the Ombudsman's work.

But the first Merceditas Rule says otherwise, and it has an important corollary: The Ombudsman will necessarily consider other impeachable officials—such as, say, the President—inoculated against the Ombudsman too.

The second Merceditas Rule places a ceiling on public officials' criminal liability; apparently for the Ombudsman, liability rises to a level of innocuousness. In the Mega Pacific case, the bidding committee is completely liable; the commissioner in charge of the project is partly liable; but the commissioners who approved the bid and awarded the anomalous contract? Not at all liable.

Like the first, the second rule also has a crucial corollary: Public officials more senior than the commissioners—such as, say, the President—can never, ever be liable.

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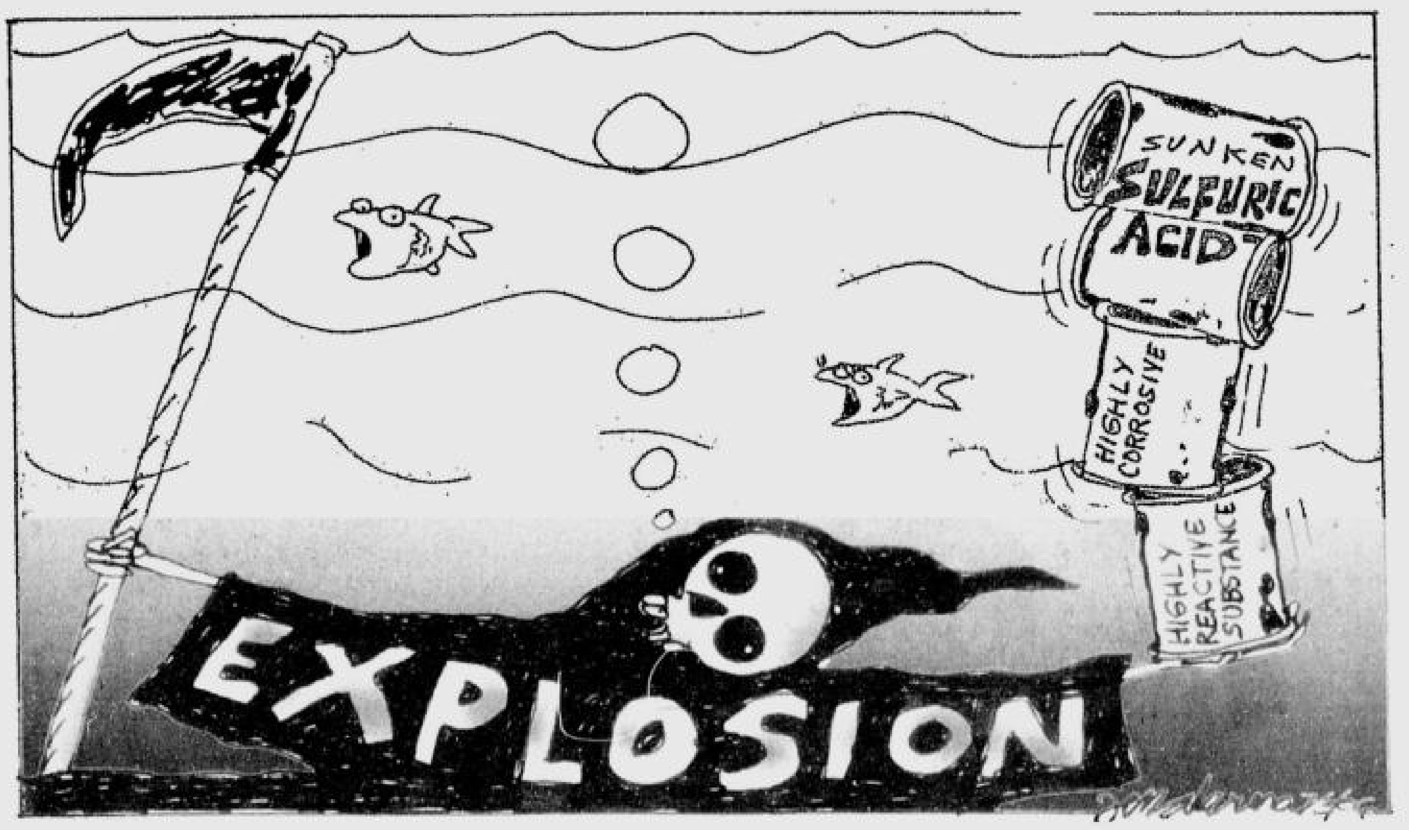

Provide Pinoys with jobs at home, not abroad

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and her party of junketeers return from Spain, one of the "achievements" they will claim is the availability of "100,000 jobs" for Filipinos in that country. Big deal! Those jobs are for caregivers who will take care of old people.

A "caregiver," if you still don't know, is the polite word for people whose job is to wipe the behinds of people too old to do it themselves; bathe them, oftentimes in their beds; feed them and clean up the mess afterwards. Spaniards and people of other Western, "progressive" and rich countries don't want to do this disagreeable job, which is—no matter how you try to "deodorize" it—the most menial, the most humiliating job of all. It is lower even than a laborer's or servant's job. So there are no takers for this job there. So Western countries import "caregivers" from dirt-poor countries like the Philippines to do the job for them. That is why there are many openings for caregivers in these countries.

Unlike here in the Philippines, where family members take care of their old people at home until they die, families in Western nations dump their senior citizens in nursing homes, to be cared for by caregivers—in most cases, poor foreigners—who have no attachment at all to their "patients." There are many such nursing homes in Western "modern" countries because the proportion of their senior citizens to their young ones is increasing.

Nursing homes are depressing places. In there, you see mostly catatonic, infirm, old people ready to keel over and croak. Every morning, the corpses of those who died during the night are carried out.

Nursing homes try to make life cheerful for their wards. This they do by holding parties and dances and games, but the old people know that their days are numbered. They are only waiting for their time to go. This depressing atmosphere affects the caregivers and in due time they become emotional wrecks themselves.

Few people are willing to become caregivers, but for poor people, like many Filipinos who cannot find other employment, a caregiver's job is a lifeline for their families. That is why caregivers come only from the poorest of the poor countries; they are people who are forced to accept the job because there is no other job available for them. "*Kapit sa patalim*" (clinging on to a sharp knife), as we say in Filipino.

Why am I saying all these? Because I am sure GMA and her spinmeisters will boast that by visiting Spain, she was able to generate 100,000 jobs for Filipinos. I just want to inform Filipinos what kind of jobs these are. In due time, we will be known all over the world not only as a nation of domestics, laborers and prostitutes but also as a nation of caregivers or, as the more unkind foreigners label it, "ass-wipers."

Why have we sunk this low, a nation of heroes and freedom-lovers reduced to "wiping other people's behinds"? Because our government is so incompetent and corrupt it cannot provide jobs for its countrymen here at home. So Filipinos are forced to seek jobs in other countries, lest their families starve.

The Philippine economy is kept afloat only by the earnings sent home by these overseas Filipino workers. Without them, our foreign currency reserves would disappear because public officials and rich businessmen, who fatten themselves on the sweat and tears of poor Filipinos, squander foreign exchange on junkets—such as the one the GMA party just embarked on. (Imagine how many millions of pesos in taxes have just been spent for the junket to the Vatican and Spain. How many hungry Filipinos would that money have fed?)

Filipino workers die working for foreign employers in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere; they are beheaded in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, they fall from high-rise apartments in Singapore, they are raped by their employers in chauvinistic countries. That is because there are no jobs in their home country and they are forced to leave their families at home to earn a living in foreign shores.

GMA should provide jobs for her countrymen here at home instead of sending them away to take on humiliating jobs in other countries, and then living it up on the earnings they send home.

* * *

It looks like the position of PNP chief, which will be vacated when Director General Arturo Lomibao retires next week, is a toss-up between Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, deputy chief for administration, and Director Servando Hizon, chief of the directorate for comptrollership, which means he knows where the money of the PNP has gone and is going. Although he only has two stars, Hizon has the edge, according to insiders at Camp Crame. But Calderon is not only the second highest ranking officer at the PNP, he also is a relative of GMA. The third contender, Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., deputy chief for operations, is the third ranking officer but he is one year junior to the two others at the Philippine Military Academy. So he still has one year before retirement.

The important issue in the fight for PNP chief is whether the President will continue her revolving-door policy, wherein senior officers with only a few months left before retirement are appointed to the top position, only to be replaced a few months later by another officer with a similarly short term left. With this policy, the PNP chief has no time to plan and make improvements in the police force. He has barely warmed his seat when his time to retire comes. No wonder the PNP is in such a sorry state.

Give unto Caesar

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HEARD IGNACIO BUNYE ON RADIO THURSday night saying the Department of Justice would look into the canons of God and man that Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez violated when he filed an impeachment case against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The usual suspect, Prospero Nograles, was also around to register his moral—as if that word can ever sit well on anyone of them—indignation at Iñiguez's affront. "We would like to see a stricter implementation of the separation of Church and State," he demanded.

Never mind that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines—whose political interventions during the time of Archbishop Fernando Capalla they took to be God's voice itself; particularly when the CBCP said, at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal, that it saw no need for GMA to resign—has backed up Iñiguez. Never mind that the same CBCP—whose former head, Archbishop Capalla, kept telling the world that the 2004 elections were peaceful and fair—now says that what Iñiguez has done falls completely within Church canons, specifically its pastoral letter demanding the dogged pursuit of the truth about the last elections.

Mind only the gall of these people.

There should be separation between Church and State? Well, who in God's very good name has been poaching on whose territory with relentless zeal? Bunye seems totally oblivious to the irony of his complaint about Iñiguez trying to be the Pope's spokesperson. Who can speak better for the Pope, Iñiguez or GMA? Iñiguez, at least, is a bona fide bishop or prince of the church, GMA is a fake President or head of State.

If I recall right, GMA also tried to be the spokesperson of the last, and truly great, Pope John Paul II, despite the fact that his entire teachings ran counter to hers. The Pope opposed the Iraq invasion, GMA salivated over it; the Pope opposed the death penalty, GMA championed it; the Pope called for morality in public life; GMA called for moving on in the face of electoral fraud. Yet GMA said the Pope actually asked her to oppose Erap, which was the one thing that convinced her to move her ass long after the rest of the nation had done so. Unfortunately, the Pope was already laid out in marble when she said this and could not very well say, "But Madame, I couldn't have done that because it doesn't just violate the doctrine of the separation of Church and State, it violates the doctrine of non-intervention by one country in the internal affairs of another."

Who was it who kept portraying herself as Jaime Cardinal Sin's—and Cory's—anointed when this country was fighting Erap, appearing in prayerful poses with them to show God was on her side? Who was it who suggested that Manny Pacquiao won his fight against Erik Morales because she asked God to make that *balato* for her? Who was it who said God put her where she was, and not a Visayan-accented, slick-haired, monstrosity who would turn into dust like a vampire exposed to sunlight if he ever spoke a word of truth? Who is it who keeps saying she is in constant chat with her *Kumpare* in heaven?

But the gall goes further. The justice department will look into the laws of heaven and earth that Bishop Iñiguez violated when he moved to impeach GMA? What about the laws of heaven and earth that GMA violated when she called up one Virgilio Garcillano again and again to make sure that she won over Fernando Poe Jr. by one million votes? What about the canons of God and man that GMA violated when she agreed to Garcillano experimenting on ways to "make *pagpapataas sa inyo*," which had nothing to do with hormonal pills to induce height? What about the strictures of democracy and plain, basic, human—the last being a concept that has been banished from this country—decency that GMA violated when she worried about a teacher in Tipo-Tipo complaining about cheating, and Garcillano replied that even then they were working to kidnap her or hold her family hostage to shut her up?

Let's be stricter about the separation of Church and State? Let's be stricter about the separation of idiocy and common sense! Is it possible we can act as though the "Hello Garci" tape does not exist? Is it possible we can act that the crimes committed there can be excused as "lapse in judgment"? Is it possible that we can actually believe that we can continue to exist as a genuine democracy, a genuine nation, and a genuinely freedom-loving people having a fake President?

True, that tape was illegally gotten. But all that means is that we cannot use it as evidence to jail GMA for it. It does not mean we cannot use it as basis to prevent her from holding public office, let alone the highest one in the country, and to keep her under tight watch. You cannot use an illegally gotten tape on someone plotting to bomb schools and churches in Metro Manila to jail him. But you, sure as hell, can use that as a basis to keep him as far away from heading the anti-terrorism campaign as possible. Never mind the separation between Church and State, just mind the separation between sanity and madness.

In fact, if I were to find any beef, legal or moral, with Iñiguez and the other citizens who want to impeach GMA, it is precisely that they want to impeach her rather than just oust her. To impeach someone is to assume he or she is the rightful President, or holder of an impeachable office. That dubious honor belongs to Erap, who was at least an unarguably, unassailably and ineluctably elected President of this country, albeit one who equally unarguably, unassailably and ineluctably betrayed the public trust. You do not impeach an impostor, you just remove her.

Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. But to those who are neither, just give them the door.

Roadblocks to impeachment

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IMPEACHMENT IS ONCE AGAIN VERY MUCH IN the air. There has even formed a beeline of impeachment complaint filers arranged in chronological order. Meanwhile, the administration defenders are as confident as ever that impeachment will not succeed. There is basis for this confidence. The roadblocks to impeachment cannot all be ignored.

The least of these roadblocks, which perhaps should be characterized simply as a "hump" on the road, is the theory that no impeachment may be initiated while another one remains unfinished. The argument is: since the opposition filed a motion asking the Supreme Court to cause last year's complaint to be sent back to the Justice Committee, that complaint, while unresolved, prevents the House from entertaining any new complaint.

Strangely, the argument is based on the provision which says "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

My simple mind simply reads (it does not try to amend) what the provision says. After all, not only do I not have the power to amend it, I do not even have the power to propose an amendment to it. I am neither the Constitutional Convention nor Congress.

The provision speaks of a one-year limitation to initiating or simply starting a new proceeding. The law simply affords the official a breathing space of one year—not an indefinite shield against impeachment—before being assailed with additional problems.

One year, I learned in Law School, is 365 days. Hence, once 365 days have passed—or 366 days if it's a leap year—the prohibition no longer holds. The law does not say: "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official **for as long as a first impeachment is not yet finally terminated**." That is an unauthorized amendment.

But, as I said, the theory is just a "hump" on the road which can be ignored. Let's talk about real roadblocks instead.

The main roadblock, of course, is the target number of 79 House endorsers. That number does not seem to be anywhere in sight. Last year, when the impeachment noise was much louder, the pro-impeachment groups could gather only 51. Now, however, even the headlines do not seem to be loud at all. The biggest ripple yet was made by Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, and I disagree with those who say that a bishop has no business exercising his right as a citizen. That seems to be the theory coming from Malacañang. One wonders more and more what Constitution Malacañang reads. One would think that after having been roundly rebuked by the Supreme Court three times, the think tank and the voice of Malacañang would look into the appropriate Constitution.

At any rate, I doubt very much that even 10 more Bishop Iñiguezes will be able to help muster the needed 79. This brings me to a stronger roadblock.

I believe that the difficulty of getting the desired 79 is ultimately rooted in the nature of the impeachment process. A couple of nights ago, I was watching a talk show where the host asked the guests whether they believed that the President was guilty of impeachable offenses. Most said she was, and they could very well be right. But the nature of an impeachment process is such that guilt is not the only decisive factor.

The impeachment process is not a judicial process but a political process. Its purpose is not to punish a malefactor but to protect the public from harm.

When I say that impeachment is a political process, I mean that it is political in at least two senses:

First, it is political in the sense that political partisanship is very much a part of the process. In fact, some would say that historically the outcome of all impeachment attempts, whether in the United States or in the Philippines, has been dictated by partisan bias. Each legislator has an interest, legitimate or not, to protect. This is a sad part about impeachment.

Second, impeachment is political in the sense that what is involved is not just a legal decision but also a policy decision. For that reason, the responsibility for impeachment has been given to a political (read: "policy-making") body. When congressmen and congresswomen deliberate on whether to raise the complaint to the Senate, or when the senators deliberate on what verdict to support, the question they answer is not only whether there is evidence to support a "guilty" verdict, but also whether under the circumstances the preferred policy should be to remove the official on trial to allow someone else in. In other words, a verdict of "not guilty" does not necessarily mean "innocent." It can also mean "guilty," but keeping the person in is the wiser option now. What is often decisive is the legitimate gut feel or illegitimate interest of individual legislators.

Is there a textual foundation for such a position? I believe there is. The Constitution says that the "President ... may be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust." The language is permissive—"may be removed." As crafted, the provision is both a guarantee of security of tenure—the Constitution makes it difficult for the President to be removed—and, at the same time, a means of safeguarding public welfare.

This is how I see the system. It is not judicial. Therefore, if you are not happy with the outcome, your remedy cannot come from the courts. Not even from the Supreme Court. The question is one whose resolution has been textually committed by the Constitution to a political body.

RP-US friendship: another look

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M Morales

WITH THE UNRELENTING MEDIA COVERAGE of the Subic rape case against four American Marines, Filipino-American ties seem to be at a low ebb again. The case, focusing on the alleged violation of the rights of "Nicole," the Filipina victim, has resulted in a public outrage that has not been mollified by the trial itself.

The accused dutifully follow due process. In their *barongs* and casual shirts, they look dignified, quashing that image of the "beasts and bullies" who forced themselves on a hapless Filipina.

There is an allegory to their story at the level of US-Philippine relations—a tale of imposition and inevitable surrender where the strong overpowers the weak. The sad thing is, the tale starts from presumed friendship and mutual interest as first base. How ironic that the trial smacks right into the celebration of the Philippine-American Friendship Day on July 4.

The change of date of our Independence Day signaled a more autonomous RP foreign policy and a collective national memory-ordering. The end of the US military bases in 1991, the scale-down of US military engagement to visiting forces, and the anti-terrorist cooperation manifest some of the nuances of the RP-US "special ties"—the ones that bind and separate, unite and disband at the same time.

The truth is Philippine-American friendship has, from the start, been fraught with irony and enigma. The enigma of America when it fought Spain for the victory and freedom of colonized peoples, only for the latter to fall into America's fledgling expansionary vision. The irony for the Philippines, America's former and only colony, which constantly ends up at the losing end of war reparations, parity rights, military bases arrangements and foreign aid, among others. And now a lopsided Visiting Forces Agreement that defines rights and privileges for US servicemen but non-committal on parallel terms for Filipino military officers.

This, however, does not affect the unending romance of Filipinos wanting to unite with America, if not officially, then by their individual choice to migrate to that country. Even playing TNT (*tago nang tago*, hide-and-seek with US authorities) is a preferred option for many undocumented Filipinos.

The Filipino-Americans are now the second fastest-growing Amerasian community (next to the Chinese) in the US West Coast. This fact is both a source of pride and anxiety for a people conscious of their heritage but puzzled by the contours of Philippine-American relations. A large ethnic community in a nation of migrants should be ready to make a difference, but as far as the Filipinos are concerned, that still has to be felt. About 18.3 percent of Amerasians have Filipino roots (2000 data). This makes the Philippines a potent political voice. The US Embassy in Manila is third in size after the US embassies in Mexico and Iraq. There is no doubt about mutuality of interests (though not parity of resources).

This year marks the centennial of the arrival of the *sacadas* (farmworkers) in Hawaii in 1906. The website of the University of Hawaii's Center for Philippine Studies (established by Hawaii's State legislature in 1975) under director Belinda Aquino is splashed with great and engaging tales of the rise of the progeny of Filipino-Hawaiian settlers from humble conditions to more fulfilling heights. Somehow, the "statehood" dream of some Filipinos in the Commonwealth era has become real, but with Philippine sovereignty intact. It is in this route of a collective psyche that stateside Pinoys are able to unite with the "American dream" by free choice. Nationalistic fervor is not found wanting when options for dual citizenship and *balikbayan* homecomings are open.

Under these changing conditions and reasons, the idea of friendship with America has to be reviewed once more. There are levels of friendships as there are relations. One program, for instance, is the AFS Intercultural Program (American Field Service is composed of post World War I war-time ambulance drivers in Europe). Now back in the country (after a 20-year absence), the AFS sponsors Filipino students from various walks of life—whether from the mainstream urban sector or from remote farming and fishing villages, whether able-bodied or handicapped. Young participants are tasked with missions of goodwill to see for themselves the world, including the United States. Under a special program, young Filipino Muslims are given the chance to be hosted by US communities and share in the forging of friendship in these most difficult times. Socialization studies show how effective the young are in fostering sound social values. And their influence can last a lifetime!

The Subic rape case is unfortunate. It alleges misbehavior by rowdy, drunk, thrill-seeking servicemen smitten by the candor and charm of a liberated Filipina. When they decided to have fun, they were acting on their own terms, mindless of official frameworks that may be invoked when things go wrong—as, indeed, they did.

Finally, there is a historical irony: Japanese salarymen, Korean chaebol (business groups) members now comfortably walk the streets of Tokyo, Osaka and Seoul with their business suits, speaking spare but crisp English phrases. The values of democracy are recent to their societies. I want to believe that, even with our *barongs* and *camisetas*, we remain heirs to the modern democratic tradition. Can the hand of friendship—mature and realistic this time—restore our claim to our identity and true freedom?

Natalia M.L.M Morales is professor of Political Science and International Studies at the University of the Philippines. She now teaches a course on US Government and Politics. E-mail nataliam91@hotmail.com

Church and Calabasa

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

"HELLO, CALABASHA?"

"Madam! How was Spain?"

"The rain in Shfain falsh mainly in the flain! Tee hee."

"Uh, yes Ma'am. I'm glad you enjoyed your trip."

"Yesh! Don't forget to have your wife buy a copy of Hola magazine in the Folo Club—"

"But Madam, Hola doesn't pay attention to official visits—"

"Why do I bother calling you? Oh yesh. I remember. 'Yung yagit, 'yung yagit."

"Pardon, Ma'am?"

"The foor! The foor! You shtufid, shtufid man!"

"But Ma'am in Barangay Bansot none of my poor constituents ever call themselves that. It's an insult to them."

"That'sh what Shingaw shaid losh pobresh are called! And Shingaw ish alwaysh right! Like me! And Frof. whatshishname. You know. Baldy but goody. The only good intellectual ish my fet intellectual."

"Of course Ma'am!"

"Good. You don't want General Fafaitan to visit you, no?"

"No Ma'am! Never, Ma'am!"

"Good. Your meshage of the day ish that the yagitsh are ufshet. Attorniesh Lambada and Bihon will onshe more go to your barangay to sfeak on behalf of the yagitsh."

"But Ma'am, may I ask why, if the masses are for Singaw, why the attorneys are the only ones we ever hear from?"

"I am going to order General Fafaitan—"

"No Ma'am! I hear and obey!"

"Good. I will shign your father'sh fork barrel check after all."

"Thank you, Ma'am!"

"You better be thankful. I'm keeping a lisht. And checking it twishe. Anyway, what are you doing to inshtruct everyone that the preshidentshial shyshtem hash been a failure? For shixty yearsh, even."

"But Ma'am, I have a problem explaining that. My constituents ask, if that's so, that would include your father—and you. And if that's the case, then why should they listen to you?"

"I am now tearing up your father's fork barrel check—"

"Ma'am! Kidding! A failure! Of course! Completely!"

"I knew you'd shee the logic of our argument. If your mother washn't fart of my Top Shix Hundred Matronsh of Shivil Shoshiety, and if your father washn't a congreshman, I think I'd have shent General Fafaitan there long ago. Anyway, Mr. Barangay Captain Calabasha, let'sh talk about *atin cu fung* Shingaw—"

"Oh no, Ma'am! Please, when you address me formally I know you're angry! Please don't be mad!"

"You better believe it. Sho, you must frofagate the Holy Father's fastoral letter."

"Why Ma'am?"

"Attorney Lambada ish shaying that an --- nam of a feshteng y--- of a bishop (you shee, I am good in our regional languagesh!) ish up to no good! I order you: Barangay Banshot musht be 100 fercent Bishop Ifiipesteng y--- free! Anyway, I will pash the fone to Attorney Bihon. My hushband and I are going to have hish halo fixshed. Ignashito the idiot broke their halosh again flaying hoola hoopsh. That'sh the froblem with being married to a shaintly family. Here'sh Bihon."

"Hello! Calabasa! Can I tell you? That group must be destroyed!"

"Which group? Oh! I know. But how? The list of those to destroy is just getting longer and longer!"

"So what? What are we in power for?"

"True."

"Anyway, can I tell you? Secretary Sarado already said, it is sacrilege for that group to claim the support of the Cardinal of Seboom!"

"But it's true—"

"True? We said it's not true. And if we said it, everything else is false!"

"Oh. But Cardinal Vocal said it's true—"

"Can I tell you? Never mind. Plant seeds of doubt! We need to make all of those bishops realize that they're better off with us. Secretary Sarado already said he has the next brilliant scheme in mind, in case they don't behave!"

"What is it?"

"I have to tell you! It goes like this. He will text that Bishop Capilla said it was morally OK to cheat in the last elections to keep you-know-who, the dead guy, out of office!"

"Which dead guy? There are so many. Oh, I get it! Brilliant. If one bishop insists on being independent, we'll slander them all."

"So here's your order of battle. You will strictly enforce the separation of Church and State. That means, the Church gives communion to Ma'am only. Attack that bishop. Isolate the Cardinal. Attack that group of troublemakers."

"But we have all those other ministers praying over Madam and supporting her."

"So? If they pray for us, they are enhancing what the Holy Father says should be the excellent and close relationship between Church and State."

"He did? When?"

"Well, he telepathically communicated it. Or something. Just repeat it, or I'll tell Madam you keep asking questions."

"OK."

"Remember, Calabasa: the voice of Madam is the voice of God. Anyway I have to go. Madam is back. We have a novena to the Sacred Pidal of Jesus."

Leave no child behind

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE WHO HAS BEEN WORKING abroad for most of his adult life recently sent me a list entitled "Pinoy Truisms." A lot of the entries were reworded one-liners that drew humor from the dissonance that occurs when one speaks in English but thinks in Filipino. "When it rains, it floods" is one such example.

Another one that I found particularly amusing was, "When all else fails, follow instructions." I guess this was meant as a left-handed compliment to the Pinoy's legendary ability to adapt to the unfamiliar. Hollywood movie stars who get into situations like this are said to be "winging it." For us, this trait is known as "oido."

"Oido" is an excellent survival tactic, but nothing beats the ability to read, understand and follow instructions as a life skill. Many of us acquire this skill at an early age, from our parents and from our teachers and mentors. Indeed, the best schools in the country go to great lengths to ensure that their young pupils learn this lesson well.

But really good schools are few and far between, and unbelievably expensive. What happens to school-age children whose parents can't afford the tuition? There are about 18 million of them right now, enrolled in 41,000 public schools all over the country. Do we just leave them to their own devices and hope that the "oido" embedded in their genetic code kicks in when needed? Do we leave them behind?

The individuals and community groups that believe in the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's Education Revolution all say, "Not if we can help it."

Former Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus—himself a founding trustee of the FWWPP—set the tone of this fledgling national movement that we launched in 2002 when he said: "Public education is too big to be left to government alone."

More and more people are latching on to the idea that making education a continuing community priority is the key to its qualitative improvement. Rather than dwelling on public education's endemic inadequacies, more and more organized groups have instead begun to ask, "How can we help?"

And help they have, selflessly and without fanfare, in whatever way they could. We started with simple school adoptions. Recently, we have begun to see the development of sophisticated community-driven education development programs being implemented by experienced NGOs and corporate foundations. Indeed, it only takes a spark to get a fire going.

Most interestingly, among the very first groups to reach out to us were our very own public school teachers. They knew that the Education Revolution was a private sector initiative. They felt that through this advocacy, they might be able to access new ways to sharpen both their professional skills and their understanding of their vocation.

We responded with the Mentoring the Mentors program, which has begun to exceed even our own expectations.

From our pilot sessions in the Iloilo City Schools division, we have now been able to conduct the Mentoring the Mentors program for the Department of Education at the regional level. We have engaged participants from "teacher education institutions" affiliated with the nationally organized Philippine Association for Teacher Education (PAFTE). And for the first time, the local chief executive of a major city has taken notice of the Education Revolution and thrown his hat into the ring.

Here's a short report on a landmark Mentoring the Mentors session (held in Quezon City) from Mary Ruby Palma, executive director of the Quezon City Gender and Development Resources and Coordinating Council (QC GAD).

"Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. recently sponsored the Mentoring the Mentors session held last June 13-16 at the Holy Spirit Mission Center in Tagaytay City. The event was organized through the QC GAD Council together with the GAD Resource and Coordinating Office, and the Institute of Politics and Governance in collaboration with the Foundation for Worldwide People Power."

The theme of the Quezon City mentoring session was "Isang Pananaw, Isang Direksyon, Sama-sama. Walang Iwanan!" (One perspective, one direction. Together. No one left behind!)

Mayor Belmonte said that their aim was "to imbue QC government officials under the mayor's office, public school officials and leaders in the non-government sector with mentoring skills and values needed to develop their second and third liners in governance, as well as motivate and inspire public school teachers with a sense of legacy and purpose."

"[The participants in these Mentoring the Mentors session] are the wellspring of the city government's talents, knowledge and experiences as servant-leaders," said Mayor Belmonte. "The Mentoring the Mentors session for Quezon City is part of our vision of good governance and quality living for the city's more than 2 million residents," the local chief executive added.

The training also supplements the city's capacity-building program for the barangays. Mayor Belmonte said that both experts and officials and GAD council members would guide and work as a team with some 200 barangay and department staff appointed as GAD focal persons.

QC School Superintendent Dr. Victoria Fuentes, together with her assistant superintendents and principals, and GAD council members and NGO leaders, all actively participated in the many lively and "energized" workshops of Dr. Evelyn Mejillano and Dr. Celia Adriano. The workshops seriously reflected on Chinit Rufino's call for a Kambio sa Pananaw (paradigm shift). Interpersonal dynamics got a boost from the Building Win-win Relationships of Lirio Mapa. The participants were made to realize the urgent need to start building up their "Emotional Bank Accounts."

Superintendent Fuentes and her team plan to hold Mentoring the Mentors sessions for their 143 schools on Sept. 5-8, 26-29 and Oct. 3-6, 2006. The other offices represented in the session made action plans specifically addressing problems that could be resolved using the many techniques learned in the session.

Even Dr. Bella Fernandez, QC budget officer, found herself designing an action plan for her office, using mentoring techniques to build better relationships among her office staff and their clientele.

Quezon City is the first local government unit in the entire country to adopt the Mentoring the Mentors program. Indeed, "it only takes a spark to get a fire going."

To Mayor Sonny Belmonte and his beloved Quezon City, welcome to the Education Revolution!

Butch Hernandez is executive director of the FWWPP. You may send e-mail to the author at execdir@fwwpp.org.

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No longer charming and cute

AFTER GLORIA MACAPAGAL-Arroyo took over the presidency early in 2001, she declared in her first State of the Nation Address that she would eliminate the scourges of illegal gambling, illegal drugs, terrorist threats and insurgency. (Note that until recently, GMA was timid about making a reference to corruption in government.)

In those days, the sight of a charming, diminutive figure flanked by towering military officials in parades (symbolic of the inviolable constitutional supremacy of the duly constituted civilian authority over the military) tugged at one's heart.

Five years later, the problems of illegal gambling, dangerous drugs, terrorist threats and insurgency are still with us. And the diminutive figure, now suspected of having cheated in the last elections, is looking more like a vicious penguin (in spite of efforts at a Nora Aunor look), and the flanking figures now look more like hoodlums securing their money bag.

Exactly P1 billion has just been added to the kitty of GMA's generals, including those of the "Hello Garci" variety, for the daunting task of crushing the communist insurgency in two years (extended to five years, two days later). Communism as an ideology has been discredited in most parts of the world, but we have been grappling with the NPA problem for nearly four decades with no end in sight.

Repulsive as the NPA may be, it will be there two years from now, if GMA and her clique manage to cling to power. With the decent elements of Philippine society unable to dislodge her, we deserve to remain in our sorry and shameful predicament.

—EP DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St.,
Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Population control will be kind to stray dogs

PHILIPPINE ANIMAL WELFARE advocates are right to speak out against the proposal to return to the practice of cruelly electrocuting homeless dogs. ("Humane solution to stray dogs problem sought," PDI, 6/3/06)

Cats and dogs who end up in animal shelters have suffered so much: abandonment, neglect, abuse, separation from their human companions, illness, injury or a struggle to survive on the streets. If no good home can be found for them and the best we can offer them is death, then the least we owe them is a kind exit in loving arms, without pain or fear—through intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital.

The most efficient and humane way of addressing the homeless dog crisis, though, is to prevent them from being born in the first place. Spaying one female dog can prevent a potential of 67,000 puppies from being born over six years.

Until the day when everyone spays or neuters their animals, euthanasia will remain a tragic necessity. But it doesn't have to be a terrifying one for the animals, who have already been through enough suffering. For a free "Animal Angels" pack on improving shelters and for information on passing spay/neuter legislation in your community, visit www.HelpingAnimals.com.

—JASON BAKER, director,
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific,
JasonB@petaasiapacific.org

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Doronila's speculations

AMANDO DORONILA'S COLUMN, "A sinister plan to butcher civilians" (PDI, 6/21/06), is full of speculations and malicious accusations against the Armed Forces of the Philippine in general, and the men in uniform in particular. No wonder, the insurgency problem in our country is getting bigger and bigger; this is because of people who have very good writing skills but limited knowledge of the people they are talking about.

Doronila talks about "Bantay Laya" as if he has read that document. He talks about the government's counterinsurgency campaign as if he is one of its authors. He talks about military brilliance as if he was a soldier once. He talks about butchery and massacre as if he has seen brutal and violent death up close and personal. And he speculates on the evil soldiers do as if he is an angel.

Doronila should be fair and factual with what he writes.

—ALBERT BERNAL,
oscar_801641@yahoo.com

Info drive on Philippine flag urged

DURING THE CELEBRATION OF the recent Flag Days from May 28 to June 12, the Philippine flag was really flying high all over the country, both in public and private establishments.

Unfortunately, some of our *kababayans* failed to display our flag in the proper manner. For example, some establishments placed the flag on the wrong side of offices—on the right of the viewer entering the office. 'Under Republic Act 8491 (An Act Prescribing the Code of the National Flag, Anthem, Motto, Coat-Of-Arms and Other Heraldic Items and Devices of the Philippines), the flag should be placed on the left.

Displaying the flag is not enough. I believe that it is also necessary that we conduct an information drive to make our people aware of the real meaning of displaying or hoisting the flag. Only thus will we learn to respect, love and take pride in our national flag, a great symbol of our beloved country.

—AMBASSADOR
ALFREDO M. YAO,
chairman of the board,
Philippine Business Bank Inc.,
350 Rizal Ave. Ext. cor. 8th Ave.,
Grace Park, Caloocan City

People: the life of an avenue

IN REFERENCE TO NEAL CRUZ'S column about the diminishing sidewalks along Commonwealth Avenue ("The vanishing sidewalks," PDI, 6/23/06), I'd say the pedestrians should be extra careful and the Quezon City government should do something about the problem.

When I was young, I'd pass by Commonwealth Avenue as a commuter and a driver. I remember the road as almost the same as the roads here in Saudi Arabia, but for the number of pedestrians and sidewalks. If Commonwealth Avenue is flooded during heavy rainfalls, then it must be provided with a good drainage system.

I just hope that when I go back to the Philippines for a vacation, everything along Commonwealth Avenue would be OK. That road is not just for vehicles; people are its life, hence sidewalks, lanes, overpasses and intersections must be provided, maintained and developed to keep people "moving."

—RICCI SANTIAGO,
signorelli@coolcare.com.sa

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UN to review program vs illegal arms trade

THIS WEEK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE Republic of the Philippines will join the rest of the world in a meeting at the United Nations in New York to discuss the illicit small arms trade.

There are 640 million guns in the world, with 8 million new ones manufactured every year. Between 10 billion and 14 billion rounds of ammunition are made each year, enough to kill everyone on the planet twice over. Yet there are no global controls on the transfer of weapons between countries.

Despite the enormity of this global crisis, it was not until 2001 that the United Nations met to establish the "Programme of Action"—a set of very basic measures to control gun violence. But it was not effective enough, and in the five years since that meeting, 1.8 million people have died by the bullet.

As the "Programme of Action" is reviewed early this July, governments need to go much further and agree on measures that will truly protect people from gun violence. Such measures will include global criteria to prevent the sale of arms to places where they may be used for human rights abuses.

Our government will join its peers for two weeks of negotiations. During that time, 12,000 people will die from gunshots. If they do not take the decisions necessary to improve this situation, the terrible toll will continue for five more years.

—JASMIN NARIO-GALACE,
associate director,
Center for Peace Education,
Miriam College; steering committee member,
Philippine Action Network
on Small Arms (Philansa)

Pacquiao is no Jose Rizal, the national hero

MANNY PACQUIAO NEEDS TO STOP TELLING Filipinos he is going to win his fights for the Filipino people. Pacquiao is representing himself and himself only. He is the only one getting rich. He even made money singing a song out of tune.

Pacquiao is being used as a "political prop" to shield Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo while she goes about undermining the Filipinos' constitutional rights. From "Hello Garci" to "Hello Manny" and now to "Hello Pope"!

National hero? What has Pacquiao done for the economy?

Poor Jose Rizal. He's been stripped of his title. Wake up, Filipinos! Enough with the popularity contest. Let's improve our economy.

—KRISTINA YATCO,
kaytinayatco1983@yahoo.com

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

THEY WILL BE THE JUDGES. YOU WILL BE THE JURY.
Philippine Idol
ARANGAN SA JULY 29
ABC
Iba Tayo!
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				Nat'l Geographic	V League				Sentro	How Clean Is Your House	ABC Action Movies				Big News	Fear Factor		Totoo TV	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	My Girl	A Love To Kill	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
AXN						Guinness World Records	E Buzz	Amazon		Andromeda (Season V)		World's Most Extreme Races		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Lost (Season II)		House	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		The Simpsons - Double Episodes		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	Dex	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinemax		Phantom Of The Rue Morgue				The Kiss (4:50 PM)			Devil Winds	Run, Ronnie Run			Precious Victims (9:20 PM)			S.W.A.T (10:55PM)			
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		What Should You Do?		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Mastermind	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Crossing Jordan		Bones		Cold Case	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unstoppable Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				[illegible]		Tour De France 2006	US Women's Open Golf Finals					Germany Tonight	Motorsport Asia	Sportscenter Germany	[illegible]			Tour De France 2006	Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Friends 10	Beach Girls		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runway		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		America's Next Top Model 4		ET Weekend	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	The Biggest Loser		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Apostle Of Common Sense II	Threshold Of Hope		Sunday Night Fr Benedict Groeschel		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Good Or Evil- Who Decides?	The Gospel Of John	Freedom & Authority	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1 Autumn In My Heart		Sayuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY		Love Of The Condor Heroes	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita		Saksi		
Hallmark Channel		Child Of Our Time (3:15 PM)						Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Doc Martin		Judging Amy					Judging Amy (11:45PM)
HBO		Crimson Force (3:15 PM)				The Sea Wolves				Eraser (7:05 PM)				Duma			Fallen (10:40PM)		
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gamburger	Gosaurer	Raijin-Oh	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gosaurer
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Japan Video Topics/ Arns		ME TV		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arns	Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Late Show w/ Letterman		Bottomline		Afterburn		X-Men Evolution	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Family Guy	Late Show w/ Letterman		Jack In The Box			
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Decorating Cents	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911			NY Fashion Week	Martha		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article	Good Finds	Style Star
MTV Philippines		Wildboyz			MTV Hits (with SMS)					Get Spotted			Ultrasound	TRL		Wildboyz			
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mobile MYX		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	Nat'l Geographic Specials		Naked Science		The Living Edens		Top 5 - America Unveiled		WOW! The Art That Ate America		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Naked Science Who Built Stonehenge		Living Edens: Temple Of Tigers	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition		Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Rugrats	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Kick Kicks		The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Raw				Bayani				[illegible]				Hotshots				[illegible]
Ctv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Scrapped Princess	Kaleido Star	[illegible]		Moms		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	[illegible]		News On Q	Liga Ng Kababaihan		Irene	[illegible]
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Arangkada News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Score Tactics	NBA On RPN	Oras Ng Himala				Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Cops For Truth	
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Sony Music Video				Oras ng Katotohanan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports			GWS 26-2006	[illegible] Open Finals		WNBA 2006 Washington vs Phoenix				Sagupaan		Boxing Pacquiao vs Barrera				Solar Sports Desk	B-Ballography: R. Guerin	2006 Thomas Cup Q-finals	
Sports Plus			Nopi Tunervision 3	FIFA World Cup '06 Quarterfinals						FIFA World Cup '06 Quarterfinals						Booz Allen Classic Highlights		This Is The PGA Tour	
Star Movies	Broken Lizard's Club Dread			Kuffs (4:05 PM)			Moscow Heat (5:45 PM)				Uptown Girls (7:25 PM)			Miracle				Runaway Jury (11:15PM)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Frasier	Monk/Dance Fever		Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23	Bewitched	Yu-Gi-Oh 3 & 4				Batman Beyond	Dragon Booster	Sports	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	High School Reunion 2		Charmed (8:20 PM)	Lost (9:10 PM)		News Central	Mass Match		Travel Time

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Imelda: No compromise on ill-gotten wealth cases

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos said she would not enter into any compromise agreement with the government to settle the ill-gotten wealth cases filed against her family.

The ousted strongman Ferdinand Marcos' widow, who attended the 117th city fiesta on June 30, said that entering into a compromise agreement through the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) would be tantamount to an admission of guilt.

"I don't like compromise. I don't want to compromise honor. I don't want to compromise the truth ...," she told the INQUIRER.

Earlier, PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede expressed his intention to strike a compromise agreement with Ms Marcos to end the long-drawn battle of the government to recover the so-called Marcos wealth, estimated to be between $5 million and $10 million.

But the former first lady said any settlement on the string of cases filed against her by the government must be settled in the "right and legal way."

"Even though these injustices have been done to us, I want it settled the right and legal way. There should be a legal resolution of this issue," she added.

The flamboyant former first lady, who, during the interview at her "Baluarte" residence at San Jose here, was wearing a green-and-black pant suit with matching emerald earrings and an emerald pin, maintained that not a single centavo of government fund was siphoned by them during the 20-year Marcos reign.

MARCOS AFP

She said the dismissal of several cases filed against her and her family in different courts, including her acquittal in a New York court, which she claimed to be the "trial of the century," were proofs that they did not amass their wealth illegally.

Of the 901 criminal cases filed by the PCGG against their family, the number is now down to less than 10, Marcos claimed.

She was optimistic that the remaining cases filed would also be dismissed.

The former first lady, who turned 77 yesterday, made her own projection as to when she sees the family would be freed from the cases. "I see that in two years time, these things will be over," she said.

Asked to comment on the second impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Marcos said this would only lead to "division" among Filipinos.

"Enough is enough. Let us give the Filipinos a break and let us move forward," she said.

Asked if she would again request her daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, not to vote for the impeachment, the former first lady said that her daughter is "intelligent enough" to know the right thing to do.

"But doing the right thing is not enough. We need to be whole… as a nation and as a people. Let us all be united," Marcos said.

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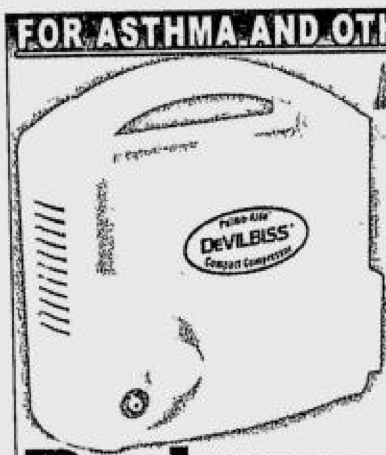

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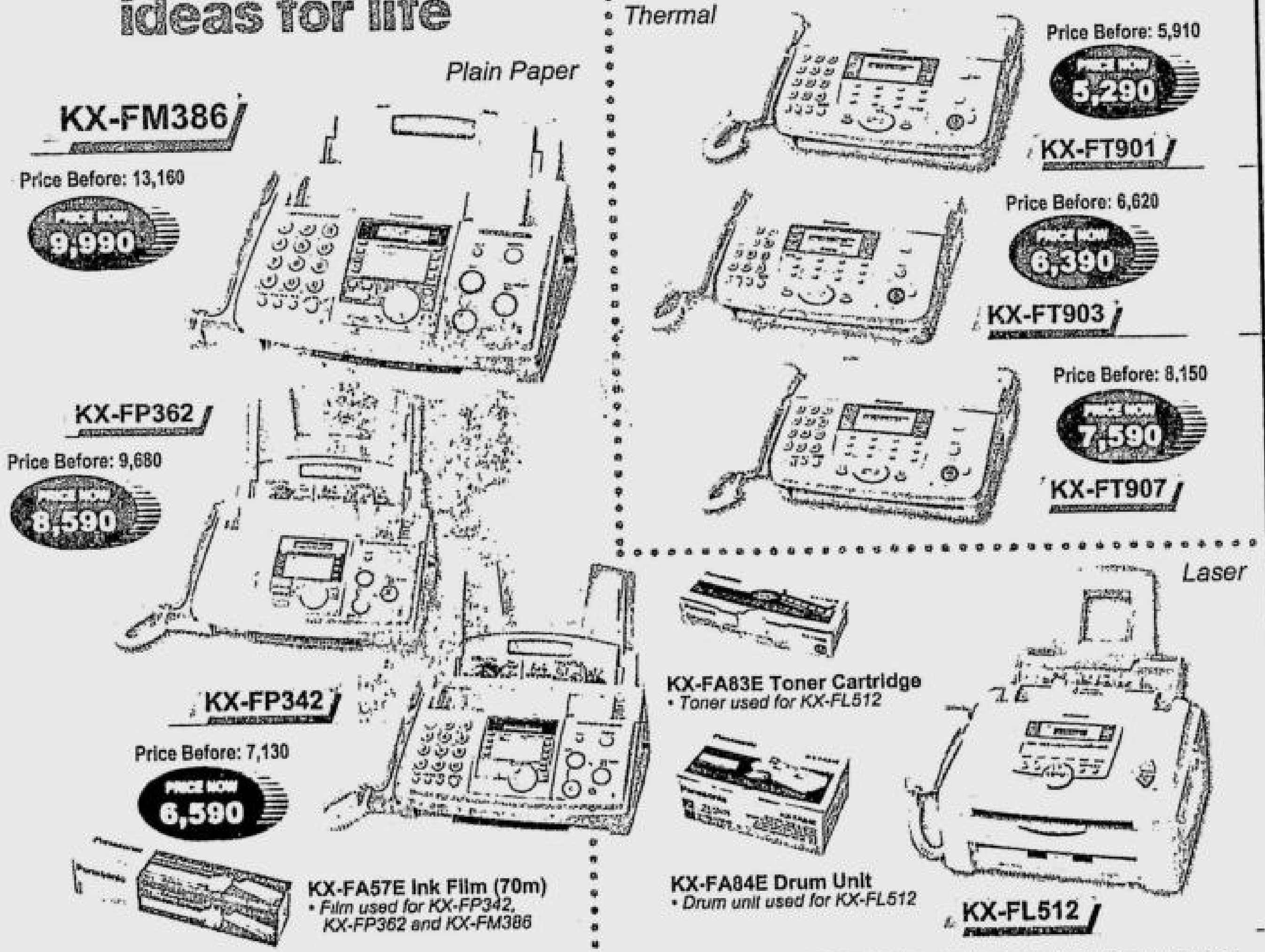

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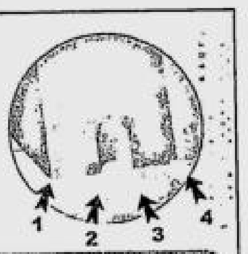

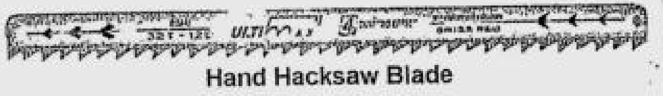

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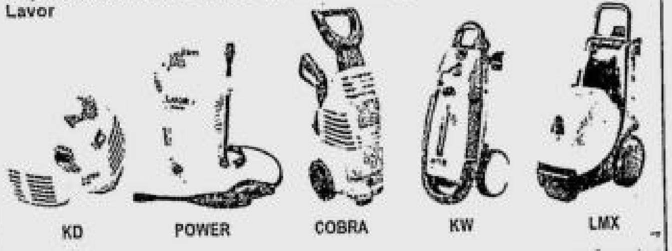

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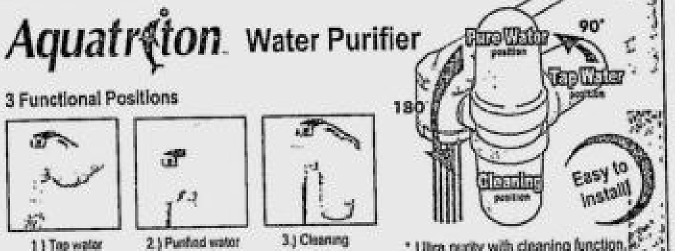

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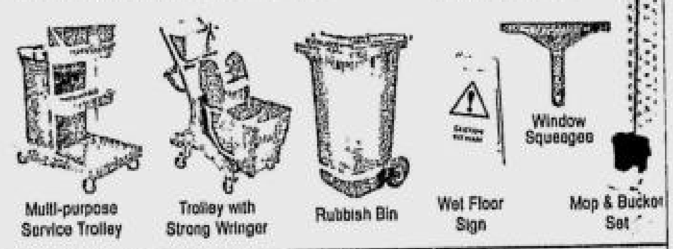

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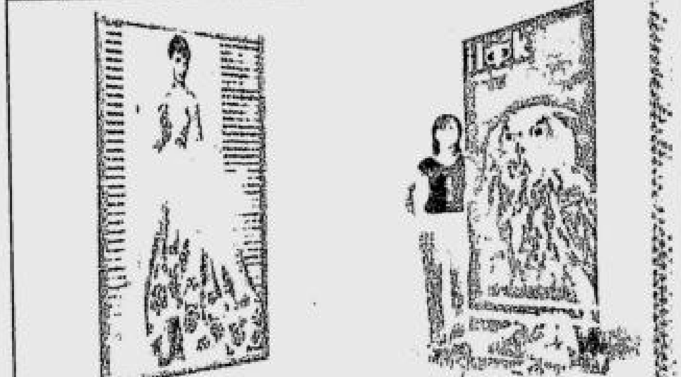

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Ex-Cebu bank exec gets 1,000 years for estafa

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A REGIONAL TRIAL Court in Cebu sentenced a former bank manager to prison terms of over 1,000 years for 45 counts of estafa through falsification of public documents.

In a decision promulgated on June 22, Judge Geraldine Faith Econg of the Cebu RTC Branch 9 found Antonio Soontit, 55, former manager of Solidbank's Taboan branch here, of Angeles Du Compound, Redemptorist, guilty of pocketing P10.8 million from a client through forgery.

"He just bowed his head. It seemed that he was very sad when the verdict was read," according to the clerk of court, who requested anonymity.

The clerk of court said Soontit's total imprisonment period could be 1,228 years, since his conviction for every count of the 45 cases carried a prison term of 19-30 years.

Soontit was ordered to reimburse the bank P12.8 million, including P2 million in damages.

But Soontit has not been jailed since he posted bail when the case was filed in 1998. He paid P30,000 in bail for every count of estafa lodged against him.

He would also remain free because he could still file a motion for reconsideration to Thursday's decision, the clerk of court added.

Lawyer Eduardo Rosello, the bank's legal counsel, said the bank had immediately asked the court to cancel Soontit's bail bond and for his commitment to prison. Judge Econg scheduled the hearing of the motion for July 3.

According to the witnesses, mostly bank employees, who testified in court, Soontit pocketed the P10.8 million through the issuance of at least 29 manager's checks on various occasions that were debited from the account of a bank client, identified as Juanito Go.

The witnesses claimed that Soontit would bring the documents out of the bank, usually at lunch time, purportedly to have it signed by Go. Soontit would come back later with the documents already signed.

The irregularity was uncovered when Go questioned the huge withdrawals from his account without his knowledge and demanded a refund from the bank.

Go testified during the trial that he was not the one who filled up the documents and that his signatures had been forged.

According to the clerk of court, the bank management refunded Go of his money and soon after decided to sue Soontit, who was dismissed after the irregularity was discovered.

IMPORTED TOYS

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

These boys marvel at the plastic toys from China, which are invading mountain communities in Lagawe, Ifugao.

Tagbanua folk in Palawan get help from Finnish gov't

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—AN organization of the indigenous group Tagbanua became the first beneficiary of the small grants program in Palawan of the Embassy of Finland.

With a P700,000-grant, the Bayaan it Kampong it Tagbanua Inc. (BKT) built a processing center for wild honey and cashew nuts and a rice and corn mill in a far-flung barangay.

During her recent visit to Aborlan, Palawan, her first visit to the province, Ambassador Riitta Resch of the Embassy of Finland in Manila, was impressed with the group's accomplishments.

Resch said the fund Finland donated was well spent.

At the project launch in Barangay Barake, the Tagbanua members presented Resch with their products and toured her around the facilities of the processing center.

Almost 85 percent of the residents of Barangay Barake are Tagbanua folk who rely on forest products to make a living.

They have the largest population of indigenous peoples in Palawan.

BKT vice president Erhilinio Porca said they were thankful to the Finland Embassy for the opportunity given to them.

BKT has more than 100 members but only half came to the launch because others didn't have somebody to look after their farm jobs.

Their main source of livelihood is gathering wild honey, rattan and almaciga from their ancestral domain in the forests of Aborlan.

Resch said she hoped that with this little help "the farmers would be able to send their children to school."

Linda Wirth, director for the Manila Office of the International Labor Organization (ILO), joined the ambassador during the project visit.

The ILO staff members in Manila had helped facilitate the grant for the Tagbanua as part of the organization's mandate to promote ILO Convention 169 that upholds the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

7 land mines found in Bicol

BULA, CAMARINES SUR—LESS than a month after President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration to wipe out communist insurgents in two years, the police's Explosive Ordnance Division (EOD) here found seven land mines, three of which had been detonated, but not before disrupting traffic along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Pawili on Thursday.

Ninth Infantry Brigade spokesperson Lt. Col. Florante Isles said the recovery of the mines began at 6 a.m. Thursday after a civilian, whom he refused to name for security reasons, discovered the explosives hidden in the grass beside the highway.

Vehicles coming from other parts of Southern Luzon and headed for Albay usually traverse the road.

Isles said the seven improvised, remote-controlled land mines, which were powerful than a grenade, were remnants of a land mine explosion that occurred in the same area last Monday.

During the earlier blast, a military service vehicle headed for Naga City in Camarines Sur was damaged while a member of the Army's 65th Infantry Brigade, identified as Pfc. Soliman Puddin, was seriously injured.

"Fortunately, the service vehicle was running fast. If not, there could have been casualties in that ambush, which were obviously perpetrated by the NPA (New People's Army)," alleged Isles.

Maj. Ramon Rosario, chief of the AFP Civil Relations Unit in Bicol, assured the public that government forces would intensify patrols, visitations and forums in the communities "so it could assess the real situation and immediately respond to the people's security needs." *Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

UPLB students boycott classes over tuition hike

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—AROUND 200 students and workers from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) on Friday boycotted classes and led a rally against the proposed tuition increase during the meeting of the UP Board of Regents (BOR) held at the UP Open University here.

Led by the University Student Council (USC) of the UPLB, the students called on members of the BOR to rescind plans to increase by more than 300 percent tuition in all UP units around the country.

Under the proposed scheme, the current P225-P300 charge per unit in the UP units in Manila, Diliman and Los Baños will be raised to P1,000 a unit while the P200 per unit in the UP Visayas, Mindanao and Baguio will triple to P600 a unit.

Manzanilla said the university had also proposed to collect Internet and energy fees from students.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to get the reaction of the BOR members who attended the meeting.

The protesters said the current slack in the national economy would make it impossible for many parents of students to afford the tuition increase and would only result in more bright youths out of school.

"It is very frustrating to note that the plan for a tuition increase in UP came at a time when the employers blocked proposals of a salary increase for our parents," said USC chair Day Manzanilla.

She said the proposed tuition increase would make UP education more expensive than most private educational institutions.

"That would defeat the purpose why the UP was created," she argued.

In June, UP units in Diliman and Mindanao increased library fees for incoming freshmen that amounted to P1,100.

Tuition increase in the UP College of Medicine was also recently approved from around P11,000 to P20,000," Manzanilla said.

She said the increases in school fees were largely caused by the reenacted 2005 national budget "which appropriated a large chunk of the budget to debt servicing and military spending while cutting the budget for education." *Marlon Ramos, PDI S. Luzon Bureau*

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DAVAO students rally against tuition increases.

BULUSAN RELIEF

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

This boy looks serious in the task of helping his mother bring relief goods they received after evacuating from their home in Barangay Añog, Juban, Sorsogon, where Mt. Bulusan is on alert level.

'Ambassador,' 'doc' strike anew, swindle wife of OFW by phone

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE WIFE OF AN OVERseas Filipino worker lost P165,000 on June 31 to two unidentified swindlers who identified themselves as the "Philippine Ambassador to Dubai" and "a doctor," making her the third victim of the same modus operandi in the city this month.

Mary Jane Haro Tibi, 34, of UNOR-Ville, Barangay Mansilingan, told police that she received a phone call from a person who identified himself as "William Golez," the "Philippine Ambassador to Dubai," at about 10 a.m. on Tuesday, police reports said.

Tibi said Golez had told her that her husband, who is working in Dubai, stabbed a fellow employee and that he had also been stabbed.

'Dr. Zuniga'

Later, another caller, who identified himself as "Dr. Zuniga," contacted her using cell phone No. 09187168675, and informed her that her husband had sneaked back into the Philippines and that he was treating her husband.

The caller said P165,000 was needed for her husband's operation.

She said the caller asked her to send P60,000 to the ATM account of "Teresita Suniga," and P75,000 and P35,000 to "Fernando Soriano Ocampo" of Imus, Cavite through Western Union.

At about 3 p.m. of the same day, after sending the money, Tibi said her father-in-law informed her that her husband was in good condition and had not been involved in any incident, contrary to the claims of the swindlers, police reports said.

Police also said that on Sunday, Amabelle Aloro Lacson, 47, of Acacia Road, Villa Angela here, reported to Precinct 4 that she received a phone call from a person who also identified himself as "Ambassador Golez" and informed her that her husband, who is a seaman, had killed his co-worker.

Another caller, this time, one who identified himself as "Dr. Fred Oribe," of Puerto Princesa City in Palawan informed her that he was treating her husband for his injuries.

Lacson said the swindler had demanded P50,000 to finance the operation of her husband, prompting her to send an initial P24,000 to the account of one "Pete Lowell Stone" of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Contacted

After sending the money, she said she contacted the cellular phone number of Oribe, and, to her surprise, his number could not be reached.

She said she contacted her husband and discovered that she had been swindled.

On June 3, a 63-year-old woman from Bacolod City also lost P69,850 in cash to two persons who identified themselves as a "doctor" and a "pilot" and informed her that her daughter working at the Los Angeles Medical Center in California, USA had been involved in a commotion and had killed her nurse supervisor. The story also turned out to be false.

In Sorsogon, two mothers of OFWs, a retired employee of the Sorsogon Provincial Hospital, a hospital guard and a retired teacher all lost money to swindlers using the same modus operandi.

ROUNDUP

Trader, 3 kids killed

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—At least eight men shot and killed a palay trader and his three children in their home in Barangay Pacalag here on Friday. Town police chief Supt. Romel Solac said Ronaldo Valdez, 39, and his children Jennifer, 10, Nicole, 6, and Maxene, 4, were watching television at past 8 p.m. when the suspects entered their compound and strafed their house. Salac said the gunmen, who wore bonnets and ski masks, later entered the house and again shot Valdez. Valdez's wife, Myrna, was unhurt in the attack. Valdez died instantly while his daughter, Jennifer, died while being taken to a hospital here. Valdez's other daughters, Nicole and Maxene, died while being taken to a hospital in Cabanatuan City. Salac said they were still waiting for Myrna Valdez to give an official statement to the police. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Water for 2,000 folk

PINAMALAYAN, Oriental Mindoro—About 2,000 individuals will benefit from the installation of a potable water system in the island of Balatasan in Bulalacao town with the approval of a million peso grant by the Peace and Equity Foundation Inc. for Samahang Layko Inc. Fr., according to outgoing town priest Betong Sanchez. From a main source called the Lagara Spring, a km transmission line of the water system will supply a 25,000-liter capacity ferro-cement reservoir. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

4 die in smash-up

DAVAO CITY—Four persons, including a village chair, were killed, while five others were injured in a smash-up in Compostela Valley around 2 a.m. on Friday. Compostela Valley police chief Senior Supt. Nestor Quinsay said the victims were going home after attending the fiesta celebration of another town, when the Toyota lite ace van they were riding in collided with a cargo truck in Nabunturan town. The circumstances behind the smash up were not clear yet, Quinsay said. He identified the victims, who died at the Tagum hospital, as Raymundo Castillo, 65, chair of Barangay Ngan in Compostela town, Roland Berioso, Nestor Baliguat and Felipe Pepito. The barangay chair is a brother of Compostela Mayor Reynaldo Castillo. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 cops, Army lieutenant killed in clashes

THE WIFE and mother of **PO1 Josepito Tubo Jr.** are inconsolable as they mourn the loss of their loved one. FERNAN GIANAN/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

TWO POLICEMEN DIED AND FOUR OTHERS were wounded in an ambush staged by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in San Andres town in Catanduanes on Saturday morning.

On Tuesday, an Army junior officer was also killed and another soldier was seriously wounded in an encounter between government forces and NPA rebels in Barangay Tanag, Libmanan, Camarines Sur.

Acting Catanduanes police director Senior Supt. Saadra M. Gani identified those killed as Senior Insp. Alexander Diaz, 43, head of the Provincial Police Mobile Group, and PO1 Josepito Tubo Jr., 35.

Both suffered bullet wounds in the head.

Wounded in the encounter were SPO2 Rodel Lavapie, 43; PO1 Ernesto Sandrino, 29; PO1 Michael Romero, 29; and PO1 Demetrio Panti, 36, all members of the Provincial Police Mobile Group.

Southern Luzon Command spokesperson Maj. Jose Broso identified the fatality in Camarines Sur as 2nd Lt. Rodencio Bernardo, head of the Charlie Company of the Army's 42nd Infantry Battalion.

Diaz was an aide of Gani when the latter took over the command in an acting capacity on June 1.

Catanduanes police said the ambushed policemen were riding on four motorcycles and headed for Barangay Barihay in San Andres, 36 km from the capital town of Virac, to serve a warrant of arrest to a suspect.

On their way back, an unknown number of rebels opened fire at their convoy less than 100 meters away from the cemetery in Barangay Mayngaway.

Diaz, who was riding on his own motorcycle, fell into a drainage ditch during the initial volley of gunfire, while Tubo traded shots with the rebels.

The other policemen were hit by bullet fragments in different parts of the body.

On June 8, eight suspected rebels shot and killed PO2 Ferdinand Bobiles, and wounded PO1 Ramon Valatero and a child bystander, identified as Erwin Naval, in an encounter in Sta. Maria, Panganiban town, about 60 km from Virac.

Bernardo and his men were involved in security preparations for the holding of a civic-military action program in the village on June 27 when they were fired upon by 15 suspected rebels.

Bernardo ordered his men to maneuver far from civilian houses, but the rebels kept on firing and hit the Army officer.

The wounded soldier was identified as Pfc. Ruel Suarez.

The rebels escaped in different directions.

Broso said the NPA also suffered casualties, citing reports of traces of blood found along the escape routes. The report, however, could not be independently confirmed

Last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P1 billion for security forces to finish off the NPA in two years. The military estimates the rebel strength at 7,400.

Peace talks between Manila and the rebels have been stalled since August 2004 when the insurgents pulled out to protest their inclusion in the US and European Union's lists of terrorist organizations.

The rebels have been waging a guerrilla campaign in the countryside for over three decades. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Fernan Gianan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Cops among rebs' top gun sources, says exec

BUTUAN CITY—POLICE SETBACKS in gun battles and successful rebel raids on their stations have made the Caraga police force one of the biggest suppliers of guns to communist insurgents, a ranking Philippine National Police official said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Geary Barias, police regional chief, said that during the past six months alone, the New People's Army (NPA) took 35 Armalite rifles in raids on police outposts.

"I think that would make Caraga (police) one of the biggest arms suppliers for the NPA," Barias told the INQUIRER.

He admitted that his men have insufficient training in counterinsurgency but said the NPA made them targets because of their "precious" firearms—the M-16s.

The M-16, which was originally designed by US-based Colt, has become the weapon of choice for combatants in many countries because of its rapid fire and lightness compared to other full-automatic assault rifles.

"Our police stations have become vulnerable to attacks because of M-16's issued to our men. The NPA was driven to stage attacks because of that type of firearm," he said.

To spare policemen from NPA attacks, Barias said they would now be issued shotguns under a new armament scheme.

"What will the NPA get if they raid our outpost? Shotguns? I think they will now be dissuaded," he said.

Barias said the insurgents would no longer be interested to raid police stations only "to get shotguns" and risk the possibility of suffering casualties.

"If we talk of the cost-benefit ratio, communists would no longer find attacking our outpost lucrative," he said.

But Surigao del Sur Gov. Vicente Pimentel said the new armament plan would do more harm than good to the government's all-out war against the insurgents.

Pimentel, chair of the Regional Peace and Order Council, said arming policemen with shotguns would even trigger more rebel harassment and render troops helpless.

"The NPAs strike with M-16s, M-60s and other high-powered firearms. How will our police force be able to fight back if they are armed only with shotguns?" he asked.

Barias, however, said only those manning police stations would be issued shotguns.

He said those assigned to the mobile groups would retain their M-16s.

"Policemen in stations are not supposed to be combatants," he said. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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DENR to plot land titles in peninsula

LUCENA CITY—TO BREAK the impasse on the seething agrarian situation in Quezon province, particularly in the Bondoc Peninsula, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources provincial office has initiated the plotting of all existing land titles.

"This is for all stakeholders to have a bird's-eye view of the areas. What are those titled properties, timberlands and alienable and disposable lands? It seems that most stakeholders and government agencies concerned don't have a definite idea of the total land area involved," Felipe Ortiz, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said in an interview here.

The project's outcome would help the Department of Agrarian Reform determine areas to be distributed to farmers under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, he said.

He said the exchange of allegations by the farmers and landholders would not help in the settlement of the conflict in the Bondoc Peninsula.

However, Ortiz admitted that the target goal of the project was being hindered by the limited availability of the land titles as plotting reference.

"Most of the technical descriptions in the old titles could no longer be deciphered, making the plotting more problematic," he complained.

He asked the landowners to fully cooperate in the project by lending copies of their titles to fast-track its completion.

San Narciso Mayor Victor Reyes, scion of the late Don Domingo Reyes, one of the biggest landlords in Bondoc, said the landholdings of his family had been fully reported to the government.

"They can always refer to the Register of Deeds and any other concerned government agencies," he said in a phone interview.

Alejandro Cruz, agrarian reform officer in the Bondoc area, said the land-plotting project would help them identify land parcels for distribution.

However, he expected that most landowners would not voluntarily submit their titles as plotting reference.

"Some of the landowners would not want to divulge their land areas," Cruz said.

He said some landowners even showed resistance when their property was surveyed.

He said the Reyes family had already allowed the distribution of at least 356 hectares of their lands in Buenavista in the last few years.

"I just want to set the record straight that contrary to the public perception, the Reyeses have been very supportive of the agrarian reform program. We don't have any problem with the family," he disclosed.

Cruz said the Reyes clan had distributed 163 hectares in Barangay Catulin in Buenavista and another 97 has in Barangay Ibabang Wasay in the same town.

"The Reyes children had also distributed several pieces of farm land in three more villages in Buenavista," he said.

He explained that the Reyes landholdings in San Narciso had become controversial because the landowners maintained that their properties had been livestock farms ever since and thus exempted from the CARP.

"It's now the subject of court litigation," Cruz said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Onboard Royal Caribbean's "MARINER OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: Sept. 10 and 24

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Onboard Royal Caribbean's "RADIANCE OF THE SEAS"
SAILING DATE: Sept. 16

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Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
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SAILING DATE: Sept. 10, 24 and Oct. 08, 22

Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INTERIOR CABIN	$ 894.00	$1,894.00
BALCONY CABIN	$1,244.00	$2,244.00

PORT CHARGES: $ 177.52 per Person

• 7N MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE (BCN RT)
Onboard Royal Caribbean's "VOYAGER OF THE SEAS"
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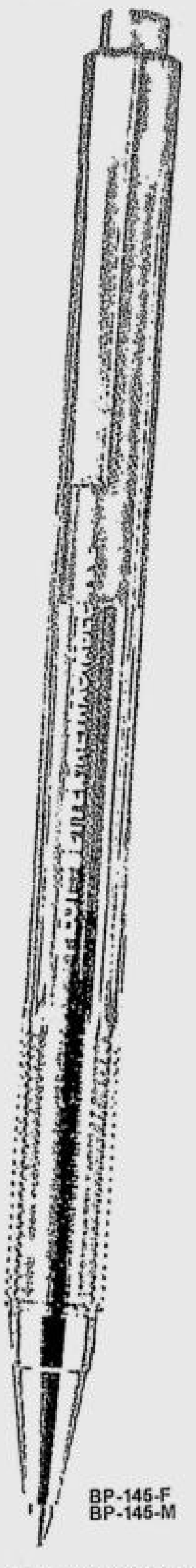

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Streets, churches, malls miss Sunday crowds as fans watch fight on TV

From page A1

Leonardo Medroso—said they did not watch the fight.

Traffic was fairly light on Metro Manila streets and in cities as far away as Davao, apparently because people were glued to television sets to see Pacquiao duel Mexican Oscar Larios.

Crime incidence in Metro Manila from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. yesterday—or around the time of the delayed telecast of the fight—was zero, according the National Capital Region Police Office.

The fever didn't spare President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Back from her weeklong European trip, Ms Arroyo returned yesterday in time to watch the fight on television in Malacañang.

She said Pacquiao's victory was "another moment of pride for the Filipino." But her statement was not without political overtones: She said the nation needed "to be focused as Manny in preparing and persevering toward our goals—a strong economy, a stable political system and a prosperous society."

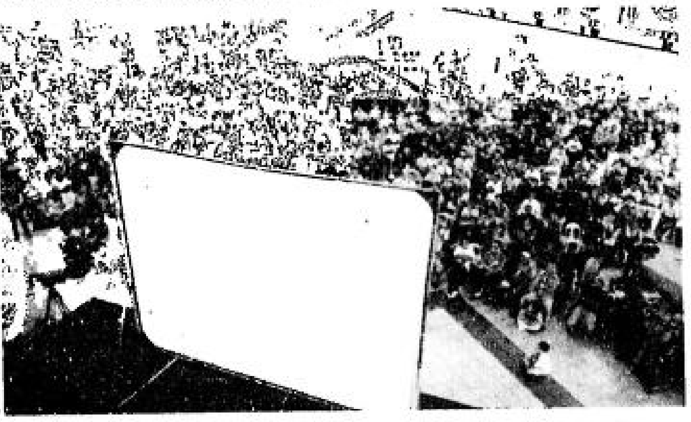
Earlier, Ms Arroyo said she would bestow on Pacquiao the country's first "Champion for Life" award.

For its part, the House of Representatives, which awarded Pacquiao the Congressional Medal of Achievement last year, will honor him with a new commendation when Congress resumes sessions later this month.

A JUBILANT street crowd celebrates the triumph of their idol Manny Pacquiao along Rizal Avenue in Manila. RYAN LIM

TOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

AT THE Maharlika Center in Baguio City, the spectators occupy all floors to watch the fight on a wide videoscreen.



DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

FANS who couldn't afford the steep ticket prices and wait for the delayed telecast fill the lobby of the NCCC Mall in Davao City.

THE CROWD in front of multiscreens in an appliance store in Manila keeps close watch of the battle. RYAN LIM

THE USUAL stream of Sunday mallers is gone from this giant shopping complex on Boxing Day. RAFFY LERMA

Prayers for Manny

In the City of San Fernando in Pampanga, calesa driver Cipriano Mainin, 64, went to Mass and offered prayers for his man.

"Manny's my idol because he fights well and he's doing well in life," Mainin said.

The fight was special, too, for Jerby Santo, a disc jockey in Tacloban City in Leyte. He said it helped him forget "my personal problems and those of the nation."

In Pacquiao's hometown, around 2,000 people saw a delayed telecast of the fight at the airconditioned General Santos City gymnasium.

"Hit him hard," they chorused each time the hometown boy connected. "Kill him," another group shouted.

Skyhigh prices

When Larios fell twice to the canvas, the crowd went wild and chanted: "He has been knocked out. He has been knocked out."

But the Mexican was still on his feet.

Sky-high ticket prices prevented the crowds milling around the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City from getting in to watch the match, but they did not leave disappointed.

For a few moments, they were able to gaze at the stars and hobnob with a virtual "Who's Who" in show biz and politics.

Cheers erupted and cameras clicked away every time a major celebrity stepped on the carpeted VIP entrance of the coliseum.

Among the stars spotted were Gary Valenciano, Aga Muhlach and wife Charlene Gonzales, siblings Richard and Ruffa Gutierrez, Jericho Rosales—who played the role of the boxer in "Pacquiao the Movie"—and Heart Evangelista.

Politicians, too

Politicians were not far behind: Sen. Manuel Roxas II, who came with broadcaster Korina Sanchez, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Representatives Gilbert Remulla, Prospero Nograles and Joel Villanueva, and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

Some of the crowd had come expecting their P50 and P100 would buy them a ticket. They were shocked to find out that the cheapest ticket cost P528.

Still, others stayed, hoping that tickets would later be sold at discounted prices. But that did not happen.

Patron 1 and 2 tickets were sold for P52,800 and P47,520, respectively, while Patron 3 and 4 tickets cost P31,680. Lower Box tickets fetched P21,120, while Lower Box A and B were worth P7,920 and P2,640, respectively.

A consolation

Construction foreman Peter Balbon, 36, brought along his wife Teresa, 36, and son Carlo, 8.

"I thought it would only cost about P100 or so. We never expected it would cost so much," Teresa said.

Carlo seemed happy enough. "I saw Richard Gutierrez," the boy said.

Jun Cañete, 27, a nurse, also thought his P50 would be able to get him in.

"I'd rather stay here and watch the stars," he consoled himself, laughing. "It's not every day that I get to see them in person."

Sponsors made their presence felt at the coliseum entrances, with banners and streamers mounted at conspicuous spaces, booths offering souvenir shirts and Pacquiao CDs, and promo persons handing out freebies like balloons, carton fans and even samples of painkillers and cough medicine.

Impressed with Larios

The crowd watched the fight on monitors set up near the Araneta entrance. Cheers rang out every time Pacquiao landed a punch—until the coliseum staff moved the monitors away after seven rounds.

An usher later told the disgruntled crowd: "Please just watch it on TV later."

One Mandaluyong police officer watched the live telecast at the SM Megamall Cinemas without having to pay for the P320 ticket. He was impressed with Pacquiao's opponent.

"Larios was really strong. I did not expect he would last until the last round," said the officer. "He was already full of bruises but he was still fighting."

He and another policewoman were on beat patrol when the cinema manager invited them into one of the five cinemas showing the fight at the mall.

Packed theaters

The five cinemas were packed.

"I think more people went to SM than to the Araneta Coliseum," the cinema official joked, saying the steep ticket prices might have turned off the fans.

The cinemas virtually shook with cheers every time Pacquiao scored.

Under the Ortigas flyover in Mandaluyong, only one Metropolitan Manila Development Authority traffic enforcer was at the intersection: the others were inside the station, watching the fight on TV.

Policemen at the Eastern Police District Annex Office also gathered in one office to watch the delayed telecast. Two people reporting a crime were also glued to the set, resuming their story during the long commercial breaks.

Still, not everyone had gone crazy.

In parts of Quezon City, some people did not seem very excited about the fight.

Stalls selling secondhand television sets on Edsa were tuned to the bout but there were very few people watching.

One possible reason was that people had tuned in to radio station dzMM, which described the fight blow by blow and revealed the result before the ABS-CBN's telecast got underway almost two hours later.

"There was too much hype. That turned me off," said a reporter, who chose to play games on the computer.

Here is how it was like in the rest of the country:

Luzon

- Melito Lacanlale, a mini-bus dispatcher, spent the day at the People's Gym at the provincial capitol of Pampanga to watch the delayed telecast.

"*Iba ang kamao niya* (Pacquiao's fist is unique)," Lacanlale said. He said he challenged his neighbors to place bets on Larios but no one took his dare.

- The large viewing screen in San Fernando, Pampanga, drew only a small crowd of 200 men and boys, leaving half of the seats in the gym empty. Many spectators were irked by the delayed telecast and the numerous commercials.

ABS-CBN personnel at the gym kept up the audience's enthusiasm by holding games like arm wrestling. They gave away free drinks and candies.

- In La Union, farmers in Calungboyan in Balaoan town were all ears to the Bombo Radyo broadcast of the bout. They said they were robbed of the excitement of seeing the fight on TV because of the delayed telecast.
- In Tarlac City, a number of meat stalls at the new public market on Ninoy Aquino Boulevard were empty because their owners had chosen to watch the fight at home.
- In Tuguegarao City, bets took the form of plates of pancit (noodles), bottles of beer and as much as P500.
- In eastern Laguna, streets were empty as drivers of jeepneys and tricycles parked their vehicles.

At the Our Lady's Nativity Parish in Pangil, a few people were seen attending a 2 p.m. funeral Mass for a relative, said its parish priest.

- Mario Marjalino, an Information Technology consultant in Masbate, mocked Malacañang's announcement that Pacquiao would be given the "Champion for Life" award.

"It's just a mere mask that hides the failures of our political system," he said.

- Broadcaster Jun Galias of Sorsogon said: "For a country in shambles like ours, every victory counts."
- Viel Balmeo, a third-year high school student at Maryhill College in Lucena City, said: "Yes, he's still the champion, but he no longer has the true heart and fighting spirit of a champ. Maybe because he wanted to stay longer so he could earn more money. He played it safe so as not to cause more harm to his body."

Visayas

Most Filipinos across the Visayas, even those who do not care much for boxing, either stayed home to follow the fight on TV or watched it on widescreen televisions set up in public places and restaurants.

But there were some who were frustrated. In Maasin City in Southern Leyte, subscribers to Dream TV were dismayed to learn that the cable firm did not carry ABS-CBN, which beamed the fight.

- In Tacloban, Malyn Caca, 42, traveled 21 km just to watch her idol fight. Jeepney driver Virgilio Villablanca, 56, took the day off to watch the match.

Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez put up a 42-foot wide screen TV at the convention center so that people from out of town could see the bout.

- Many Cebuanos were dismayed by the delayed telecast. Betting was relatively light because it was hard to find someone who would bet on Larios.
- In Bacolod City in Negros Occidental, thousands trooped to the arts and youth center, where the city government had set up a widescreen TV, even if they already knew that Pacquiao had won.

Many people went to church early or chose to hear a later Mass so they could watch the fight.

Mindanao

In Davao City, children mimicked the two boxers during breaks, at times sparking petty quarrels.

In Cotabato City, fish vendor Mokamad Ayob gladly paid for the *pulutan* and the liquor he and his friends were consuming when Pacquiao floored his opponent in the 7th round. *Reports from DJ Yap, Margaux Ortiz, Christian V. Esguerra, Christine O. Avendaño, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Luige A. del Puerto and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila; Tonette Orejas, Russell Arador and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Leoncio Balbin Jr., Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Jhunnex Napallacan, Joey Gabieta and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Romulo Ponte, Marlon Alexander Luistro, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Ephraim Aguilar, Bobby Labalan and Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Aquiles Zonio, Grace Albasin, Dennis Santos and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

French-German final seen with Brazil's debacle

From page A1

1870s, the World War I (1914-18) and World War II (1939-45).

All-European semifinals

This is only the fourth World Cup in which all four semifinalists are European teams, after 1934, 1966 and 1982. The last time this happened, 24 years ago, three of the current semifinalists were also among the last four—Italy, Germany and France.

This is the first all-European Final Four since 1982 in Spain. Brazil's exit means that the Cup will have no South American representation in the last four for the first time since 1982. This marks the shift of the center of gravity of football to Europe.

With the disgraceful exit of the United States in the group stage of the Cup following its defeat at the hands of Ghana, the Cup becomes not only an all-European show but it also redraws the global soccer map along the lines of Old Europe that US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld pitted against the New Europe of US allies, who sided with the United States in its "coalition of the willing" in the invasion of Iraq.

In soccer, Europe has found a stronger basis to cement trans-European unity and identify.

Germany and France are marching toward their final showdown armed with confidence by their victories against two of the most formidable football powers—Brazil and Argentina—in the midst of a resurging German nationalism after the unification of Germany.

Turning point for France

Starting badly, France had struggled through Group G and appeared headed for an early exit. The turning point came with the 3-1 win against Spain, following which the French regained their flair and began to move toward peaking at the right moment.

In defeating Brazil, France rode on the talents of its captain, Zinedine Zidane, who lifted the team's game as did his two goals in 1998 that sank Brazil 3-0.

In Frankfurt, Zidane served a free kick to striker Thierry Henry, who was in the right place to volley the ball into the net. The goal came in the 57th minute. The French fought a Brazilian squad, overloaded with a galaxy of stars, including Ronaldo, Ronaldinho and Kaka, who failed to punch the French defense with their aggressive attacking style.

The French appeared to have outplayed the Brazilians with an opportunistic offensive strategy that took advantage of the Brazilian defensive gaps, opened by their tendency to push relentlessly forward. Zidane wove in and out the Brazilian midfield, and in the free kick, he found an opening in the right wing by lofting the ball to Henry, who was unmarked, giving him the space to strike.

Suspect Brazilian defense

The French midfielder, Patrick Vieira, had earlier spelled out the French strategy. He thought that the Brazilian defense was suspect because it left wide open spaces at the back.

"It is one of their weaknesses," Vieira said. "It is an attacking team ... they will leave a space which we can exploit. In the attack, they create a lot of chances, and score a lot of goals. But we should not just defend. We need to impose ourselves and attack."

The Brazilian coach, Carlos Alberto Parreira, said: "We didn't think we would leave before the final but we have to face it. France played very well, they were more patient and their victory was a deserved one. We had talented players, we worked hard but there was something missing."

Germany's 4-2 victory against Argentina was not as one-sided as the score indicated.

Argentina displayed free-flowing offensive and controlled the ball for two-thirds of the first half. It scored 1-0 in the 49th minute. The Germans evened the score, 1-1, in the second half. The score was tied after 120 minutes. After the draw, the game settled down to a shootout on penalties. Falling back on their tenacity, the Germans wore down the Argentinians.

A feeling of invincibility

The Germans enter the semifinals with a feeling of invincibility after going through the bruising match with Argentina and a more impressive record than the French in the group elimination games.

They find in this year's World Cup a medium of expressing their new patriotism without reviving memories of Nazi nationalism in World War II.

Demoralized and battered after World War II, the former West Germany received a big boost in national spirit when it won the World Cup by beating Hungary 3-2 in the early post-war years.

They have refrained from an exuberant display of nationalism over their economic success, fearing it would revive memories of Hitler's use of the 1936 Berlin Olympics to demonstrate German's political and military power.

For the first time since reunification, the former two Germanys are competing in the World Cup under a single flag. All through the elimination rounds, the Germans wore their nationalism on their sleeves as they celebrated each triumph without the previous inhibitions

Abalos: Why include me in impeachment …

From page A1

"I'm very shocked with the recommendation to impeach Commissioner Borra. I'm doubly shocked that they want to include me," Abalos said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

After several admonitions from the Supreme Court, the Ombudsman announced on Friday it had adopted a resolution containing factual findings which the House of Representatives could use to open impeachment proceedings against Election Commissioner Resurreccion Borra.

The high court had given the Ombudsman until June 30 to resolve its investigation of the liability of the poll officials who approved the deal.

The Ombudsman said Abalos and the rest of the commissioners who approved the award of the contract to Mega Pacific e-Solutions Inc. were still being investigated. Two and a half years ago, the Supreme Court voided the deal, saying the Comelec had disregarded the law and its bidding procedures.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said it was not fair to single out Borra because all those who took part in the contract should be charged.

Apart from Abalos and Borra, retired Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain, and current Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. approved the contract on April 15, 2003.

Augusto Lagman, the main complainant in the Mega Pacific deal, wanted Abalos on the list of poll officials to be recommended by the Ombudsman for impeachment.

"Abalos and all the other commissioners who signed the deal are culpable. And Abalos has been defending and defending the legality of the contract in so many forums," Lagman said earlier.

Adamant

Until yesterday, Abalos remained adamant that the Comelec had done nothing wrong.

"No graft and corruption attended the bidding process," he insisted.

Abalos claimed that the deal's original price of P1.3 billion was arrived at during the term of his predecessor, former Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo.

He claimed that during his term, the amount was lowered to P1.2 billion.

Abalos said the Comelec shouldn't be blamed because the machines were never used. No less than the Department of Science and Technology had certified that the machines were 100-percent accurate, according to him.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the Ombudsman's resolution holding only Borra liable for the Mega Pacific automation deal was proof that Abalos was untouchable.

"That is what we call selective justice. Abalos who is supposed to be in the front-line, being the chair, suddenly becomes the rear guard," Lacson said by text, referring to the Comelec chair.

"He is," the senator said, when asked if Abalos was untouchable. "Albeit temporarily owing to what he knows about the Garci [scandal] and his own role in the massive cheating in the 2004 elections."

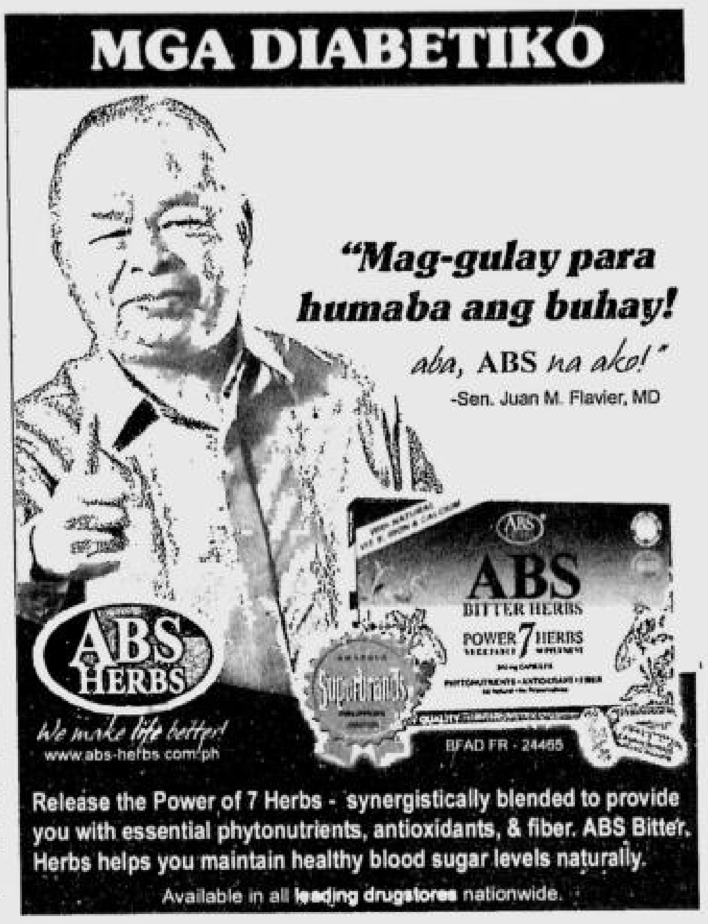
Abalos is "safe in the meantime" until Malacañang "finds an alternate and fool-proof gag to keep his mouth shut," Lacson said.

Lacson said Borra's "misfortune" stemmed from his candidness at a Senate hearing where he admitted that "cheating was indeed committed with regularity during past elections, particularly in the 2004 presidential election."

"Obviously, people from Malacañang have not forgotten it," he said.

Lacson said Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez should show her independence by removing the perception that she could not go against the wishes of her chief benefactor, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Gutierrez had maintained she was not beholden to anyone, including Arroyo.



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- Champions, Xavier Cup
- Runner-Up, NCR Tournament

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Grade 6 MTAP Team (Kevin Habaluyas, Lance Katigbak)
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Miguel Santos
- 4th Place Over-All MTAP Individual Competition
- 4th Place, MTAP Regional Finals

James Daniel Cordon
- 7th Place Over-All MTAP Individual Competition
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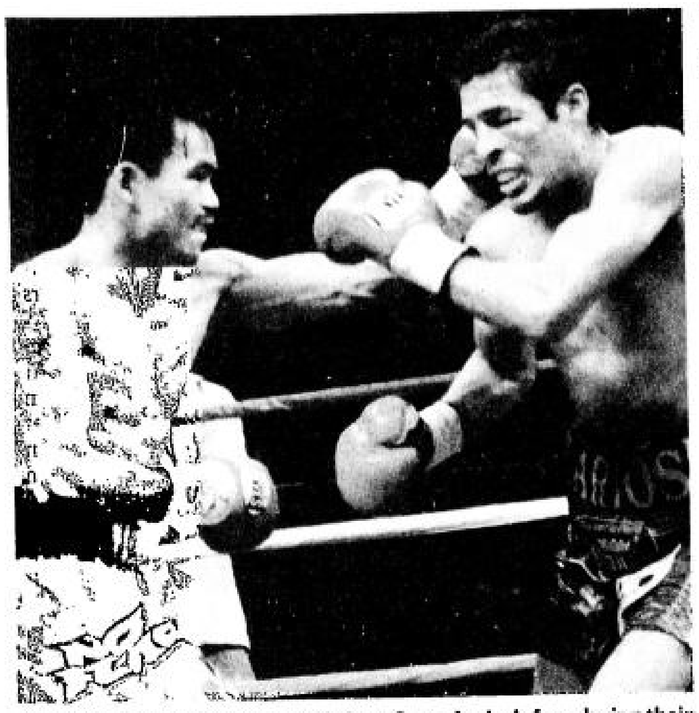
Larios gains respect for tough stand



MANNY Pacquiao lands a hard left on Oscar Larios's face during their superfeatherweight bout. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Francis Ochoa
Sports

THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON THE Araneta Coliseum crowd cheered for just before the super featherweight match between Manny Pacquiao and Oscar Larios started yesterday.

Twelve rounds, two knockdowns and a hundred traded punches later, there were two people the crowd gave a rousing ovation to.

Pacquiao made good on his promise to win. Larios made his point clear.

"I did not come here just to put up a good fight," Larios said through an interpreter. "I came here to win."

Larios did not manage to get the victory he had sought, one which would have pushed his career to meteoric heights. Instead, he stood on the wrong end of a lopsided unanimous decision after the bout, his left eye swelling and blood dripping from cuts above and below the same eye.

But he finished standing, which isn't something legendary compatriots Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales could say about themselves in their defeats to the "Pacman."

"Before the fight, people were saying I was going into the lion's den," the 29-year-old Guadalajara, Mexico, native told reporters after the fight. "But I put up a good fight."

"We knew Manny Pacquiao was a great champion but I'm proud of my fighter," said Larios trainer Jose Reynoso. "He showed a lot of heart."

The former 122-lb world champion was supposed to be grossly overmatched against Pacquiao, who is starting an iron-fisted reign in the 130-lb ranks.

He was supposed to have a glass chin, one that stood no chance against the Filipino ring icon's pet left straight—a weapon that stopped a tough Barrera in the 11th round in 2003 and, for the first time, the granite-hard Morales in 10 early this year.

Pacquiao hit Larios several times solidly with that left straight. For good measure, the Filipino peppered the Mexican's face with his now formidable right cross. Each time, Larios managed to stay on his feet and weave out of trouble with accurate counter-punching.

And the two times he hit the canvas—one in the seventh and the other in the 12th—he got up quickly with hardly a wobble in his legs.

He rebounded so quickly from every Pacquiao onslaught that even Freddie Roach was amazed.

"Larios took a lot of shots from Manny and they were good solid shots," said Roach. "He really surprised me."

Pacquiao admitted that he didn't really put a lot of heat on Larios, saying he was content with keeping control of the match and tempering his aggressiveness with enough caution to prevent the Mexican challenger from landing a lucky punch.

But that was not what the huge crowd at the Big Dome saw.

"The fans saw a good fight between two brave warriors," Mendoza said after a post-fight press conference.

The fans also saw a Mexican warrior who refused to wilt under the pressure of facing an opponent with an already large persona magnified a hundredfold by the fact that he was fighting on home grounds.

They saw a proud, unyielding boxer who gave new meaning to the word fighter.

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Manny…

From page A1

compatriots.

But it was a present that the country's favorite son nearly failed to gift-wrap.

Larios, the former two-time world champion, was not the sacrificial lamb Pacquiao's camp had hoped he would be for this homecoming fight of sorts.

The 29-year-old ring veteran surprised everyone as he applied pressure on Pacquiao early on and pinning the Filipino on the ropes in the third round and nearly taking him down.

Larios's shining moment, however, also turned out to be the beginning of his downfall.

"I felt that I could knock him out [after the third round] and I stopped listening to my corner," Larios said through an interpreter in the post-match press conference.

"He started fighting the wrong fight after the third round," said Rafael Mendoza, Larios's agent and adviser. "He lost his head thinking he could knock Manny Pacquiao out."

Suckered into a brawl, Larios gave Pacquiao the stage he needed to do what he did best: Showcase a natural flair for slugging it out and fusing a divided nation with a display of raw speed and punching power.

A country behind him

With the crowd—and an entire country—rallying behind him, the 27-year-old superstar slipped out from under the weight of Larios's third-round onslaught and uncorked a sharp combination that opened a cut under the Mexican's left eye.

"For a while, I was a little bit concerned," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer. "But Manny recovered well after that."

"He hit me hard, but I wasn't that hurt," Pacquiao said. "In fact, I was able to get out of the ropes quickly after that. Hearing the crowd chanting my name helped. I knew I couldn't let [my countrymen] down."

"When he came back to the corner after the round, I told him not to get caught sleeping on the ropes again," Roach recounted.

By the time the sixth round came along, Pacquiao was certainly wide awake. His feared left straight started to find its range and his right cross, a weapon developed by his camp for his two previous fights against Erik Morales, came into play.

"He was just coasting in the early rounds and he did not turn up the heat until the sixth round," said Roach.

Pacquiao unleashed rapid combinations to the body and the head that repeatedly rocked Larios from the sixth round onwards, giving the Guadalajara native a sample of his much talked-about power and speed.

After bringing Larios to his knees in the seventh, Pacquiao kept up the pressure. In the 12th round, he drove a left jab straight to the head before uncorking another flurry that had Larios seated on the floor.

Larios: Speed beat me

"Manny's a great fighter, he beat me with his speed," said the former super bantamweight champion of the world.

The only thing faster than Pacquiao's punching flurry, it seemed, was Larios's ability to come back after every barrage, withstanding everything the Filipino threw at him to force the fight to go the distance. That was the Larios fight plan, to force an upset through the scorecards.

But Pacquiao still managed enough to seal a points victory—the three judges had it all for the champion at 117-110, 118-108 and 120-106—even if it wasn't quite the slam-bang performance the Filipino's camp had foretold during prefight interviews.

Partly, it was because, so Pacquiao said, he didn't go full steam against Larios.

"I knew I was in control of the match, leading on points, and I did not want to risk being too aggressive because he might catch me with a lucky punch," Pacquiao (42-3-2) said.

"If I pushed a little harder, I think you all know what the result would have been," he added, hinting that Larios (56-5-1) would not have lasted the distance.

It was also because Larios seemed to have the stars aligned for him yesterday.

Not only was Pacquiao far from the form that allowed him to knock Morales out early this year, but Larios himself seemed to have benefited greatly from the three-month preparation he undertook for this bout.

"Larios couldn't have fought a better fight than he already did [yesterday]," Roach said. Larios earned $450,000 for his effort while Pacquiao, who only prepared for six months for yesterday's tiff, picked up a cool $1 million.

Simple math proves the brotherhood of man

NEW YORK—IT'S HUMAN NATURE FOR people to wonder about their ancestors—who they were, where they lived, what they were like. People want to locate themselves in the sweep of history and position themselves in the web of human existence.

But few people realize just how intricately that web connects them not just to people living on the planet today, but to everyone who ever lived.

With the help of a statistician, a computer scientist and a supercomputer, Steve Olson—whose 2002 book "Mapping Human History" traces the history of the species since its origins in Africa more than 100,000 years ago—has calculated just how interconnected the human family tree is.

Olson and his colleagues have found that if you go back about 5,000 to 7,000 years ago, everybody living today has exactly the same set of ancestors. In other words, every person who was alive at that time is either an ancestor to all 6 billion people living today—or their line died out and they have no remaining descendants.

How can this be?

Doubling back

It's simple math. Every person has two parents, four grandparents and eight great-grandparents. Keep doubling back through the generations—16, 32, 64, 128—and within a few hundred years you have thousands of ancestors.

It's nothing more than exponential growth combined with the facts of life. By the 15th century, you've got a million ancestors. By the 13th century, you've got a billion. Sometime around the 9th century—just 40 generations ago—the number tops a trillion.

But wait. How could anybody—much less everybody—alive today have had a trillion ancestors living during the 9th century?

The answer is, they didn't. Imagine there was a man living 1,200 years ago whose daughter was your mother's 36th great-grandmother, and whose son was your father's 36th great-grandfather. That would put him on two branches on your family tree, one on your mother's side and one on your father's.

Never average

In fact, most of the people who lived 1,200 years ago appear not twice, but thousands of times on our family trees, because there were only 200 million people on Earth back then. Simple division—a trillion divided by 200 million—shows that on average each person back then would appear 5,000 times on the family tree of every single individual living today.

But things are never average. Many of the people who were alive in the year 800 never had children; they don't appear on anybody's family tree. Meanwhile, more prolific members of society would show up many more than 5,000 times on a lot of people's trees.

Keep going back in time, and there are fewer and fewer people available to put on more and more branches of the 6.5 billion family trees of people living today. It is mathematically inevitable that at some point, there will be a person who appears at least once on everybody's tree.

This means that when Muslims, Jews or Christians claim to be children of Abraham, they are all bound to be right. This also means that all of us have ancestors of every color and creed.

Sharing ancestors

"No matter the languages we speak or the color of our skin, we share ancestors who planted rice on the banks of the Yangtze, who first domesticated horses on the steppes of the Ukraine, who hunted giant sloths in the forests of North and South America, and who labored to build the Great Pyramid of Khufu," Olson and his colleagues wrote in the journal Nature.

Just one ancestral link to another cultural group among your millions of forbears, and you share ancestors with everyone in that group. So everyone who reproduced with somebody who was born far from their own natal home—every sailor blown off course, every young man who set off to seek his fortune, every woman who left home with a trader from a foreign land—as long as they had children, they helped weave the tight web of brotherhood we all share.

AP

There's a king, pope, star in your family tree

From page A1

queror and King Harold, vanquished by William at the Battle of Hastings.

Shields also descends from five popes, a whole mess of early New England settlers, and the royal houses of virtually every European country. She counts renaissance pundit Niccolo Machiavelli and conquistador Hernando Cortes as ancestors.

What is it about Brooke? Well, nothing—at least genealogically.

Even without a documented connection to a notable forebear, experts say the odds are virtually 100 percent that every person on Earth is descended from one royal personage or another.

"Millions of people have provable descents from medieval monarchs," said Mark Humphrys, a genealogy enthusiast and professor of computer science at Dublin City University in Ireland. "The number of people with unprovable descents must be massive."

Thousands of nobodies

By the same token, for every king in a person's family tree, there are thousands and thousands of nobodies whose births, deaths and lives went completely unrecorded by history. We'll never know about them, because until recently vital records were a rarity for all but the noble classes.

It works the other way, too. Anybody who had children more than a few hundred years ago is likely to have millions of descendants today, and quite a few famous ones.

Take King Edward III, who ruled England during the 14th century and had nine children who survived to adulthood. Among his documented descendants are presidents (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, Zachary Taylor, both Roosevelts), authors (Jane Austen, Lord Byron, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning), generals (Robert E. Lee), scientists (Charles Darwin) and actors (Humphrey Bogart, Audrey Hepburn, Brooke Shields). Some experts estimate that 80 percent of England's present population descends from Edward III.

Twist of fate

A slight twist of fate could have prevented the existence of all of them. In 1312, the close adviser and probable lover of Edward II, Piers Gaveston, was murdered by a group of barons who were frustrated with their king's ineffectual rule. The next year, the beleaguered king produced the son who became Edward III.

Had Edward II been killed along with Gaveston in 1312—a definite possibility at the time—Edward III would never have been born. He wouldn't have produced the lines of descent that ultimately branched out to include all those presidents, writers and Hollywood stars—not to mention everybody else.

Of course, the only reason we are talking about Edward III is that history remembers him. For every medieval monarch there are countless long-dead nobodies whose intrigues, peccadilloes and luck have steered the course of history simply by determining where, when and with whom they reproduced.

The longer ago somebody lived, the more descendants a person is likely to have today. Humphrys estimates that Muhammad, the founder of Islam, appears on the family tree of every person in the Western world.

Lineage

Some people have actually tried to establish a documented line between Muhammad, who was born in the 6th century, and the medieval English monarchs, and thus to most if not all people of European descent.

Nobody has succeeded yet, but one proposed lineage comes close. Though it runs through several strongly suspicious individuals, the line illustrates how lines of descent can wander down through the centuries, connecting famous figures of the past to most of the people living today.

The proposed genealogy runs through Muhammad's daughter Fatima. Her husband Ali, also a cousin of Muhammad, is considered by Shiite Muslims the legitimate heir to the leadership of Islam.

Ali and Fatima had a son, al-Hasan, who died in 670. About three centuries later, his ninth great-grandson, Ismail, carried the line to Europe when he became the imam of Seville.

Many genealogists dispute the connection between al-Hasan and Ismail, claiming that it includes fictional characters specifically invented by medieval genealogists trying to link the Abbadid dynasty, founded by Ismail's son, to Muhammad.

No good evidence

The Abbadid dynasty was celebrated for making Seville a great cultural center at a time when most of Europe was mired in the Dark Ages. The last emir in that dynasty was supposed to have had a daughter named Zaida, who is said to have changed her name to Isabel upon converting to Christianity and marrying Alfonso VI, king of Castile and Leon.

Yet there is no good evidence demonstrating that Isabel, who bore one son by Alfonso VI, is the same person as Zaida. So the line between Muhammad and the English monarchs probably breaks again at this point.

But if you give the Zaida/Isabel story the benefit of the doubt too, the line eventually leads to Isabel's fifth great-granddaughter Maria de Padilla (though it does encounter yet another potentially fictional character in the process).

Maria married another king of Castile and Leon, Peter the Cruel. Their great-great-granddaughter was Queen Isabel, who funded the voyages of Christopher Columbus. Her daughter Juana married a Hapsburg, and eventually gave rise to a Medici, a Bourbon and long line of Italian princes and dukes, spreading the Mohammedan line of descent all over Europe.

Finally, 43 generations from Muhammad, you reach an Italian princess named Marina Torlonia.

Her granddaughter is Brooke Shields.

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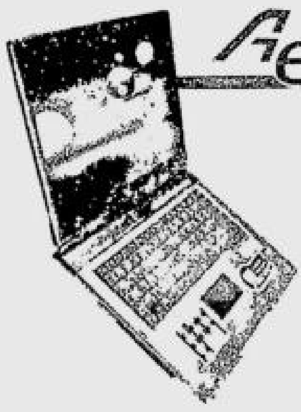

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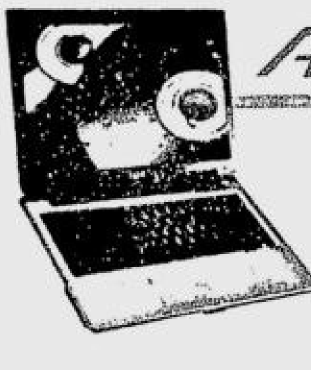

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Nonworking holiday today in Pasig City which is marking its 433rd birthday /A28

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Urban garden in Makati offers oasis for stressed-out urbanites /A27

Ex-Caloocan cop wanted for murder in RP deported by US authorities /A28

MMDA wants to turn Metro into wireless community

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IMAGINE THESE: WIRELESS CAMERAS AND sensors installed in key streets in the metropolis to monitor and report traffic jams and flooded areas—all in real time.

Microchips installed in buses and jeeps to easily monitor the number of public vehicles in particular routes compared to the volume of passengers.

Should plans push through—depending on the budget of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority—then these sophisticated technologies would soon find their way to streets in Metro Manila.

"We need technology to improve our services," MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday in his weekly radio program over dzBB.

Digital city

Bayani said he got the idea from Taipei in Taiwan, where he had just attended a three-day conference with officials from other countries about creating "digital cities." Taipei is considered one of the biggest Wi-Fi communities in the world.

The conference encouraged community leaders to take advantage of broadband-wireless technologies, like Wi-Fi *(See In The Know below)*, to enhance emergency responses, improve government service and lower telecommunication costs.

"I want to start the project in three to four months. I hope we can fully implement this before Christmas," Fernando said in his program.

He told the INQUIRER they would soon start talking with companies for the installation of Wi-Fi Networks in key streets in Metro Manila.

He said wireless connection would enable MMDA head offices and response units to quickly monitor—using wireless cameras which will be installed in key areas—traffic congestion and even flooding in key areas in the metropolis.

"We can even put sensors to monitor if our flood control pumping stations are functioning or not," Fernando added.

Taking his vision further, Fernando said they could even put chips on public utility vehicles to boost the still shaky implementation of the Organized Bus Route System.

He said with the chips, the MMDA could monitor how many buses were passing through a certain access point, giving the agency the accurate volume of traffic in a given area.

"Using wireless cameras, we can see the volume of passengers, say in Cubao. Then, we can deploy more buses there," the MMDA chair added.

More efficient setup

He said this communication setup would be "more efficient" for the agency, which is still troubled by huge phone bills.

Fernando admits the new project is starkly different from previous MMDA ideas, which had been frowned upon by many as backward, if not primitive, like the erection of concrete barriers and pink railings and even the use of pink cloth in controlling overstaying buses.

The MMDA official, however, could not yet say just how much funding his new idea would require. "We will have to check first how much these technologies cost," he said in an interview after his radio show.

IN THE KNOW

SHORT FOR "WIRELESS FIDELITY," WI-FI is a way to connect electronic devices such as computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) to each other without the use of wires. Wi-Fi networks use radio technologies called IEEE802.11a, 802.11b or 802.11g to provide this connectivity. A Wi-Fi network can either connect computers to each other or to the Internet.

A Wi-Fi hotspot is an area where wireless technology both exists and is available for consumer use. Within these hotspots, devices with Wi-Fi connectivity can use the technology—usually for free. These hotspots are now common in places such as airports and coffee shops. The most common use for these hotspots is for people with Wi-Fi-enabled laptops and PDAs to gain access to the Internet.

The range of these Wi-Fi networks vary, depending on whether the network is in an open environment, or hampered by walls and furniture. On the average, it provides a range of within 75 to 150 feet in a typical office or home setup. Speed of data transmission gradually deteriorates as the distance between the main access point and the device increases.

From: http://www.wi-fi.org
http://www.wi-fihotspotlist.com/faq.html

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QC gov't building new hospital

By DJ Yap

A NEW HOSPITAL OFFERING A COMPLETE line of medical services will soon rise in Quezon City.

The Quezon City government has announced the construction of the Balgan General Hospital on Congressional Avenue in Project 7.

To be headed by Dr. Janice de Leon, the hospital will carry a complete line of specialized medical care, enough to serve the people in the area.

It will offer clinical (medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery and family medicine), ancillary (clinical laboratory, radiology and pharmacy), emergency and outpatient services, among others.

The hospital's mission, according to De Leon, is to offer patients affordable and competent medical services.

Once completed, it will become the 65th hospital in Quezon City which is billing itself as a health and wellness hub. Of the 65 hospitals, 18 are government-owned, including the Quezon City General Hospital.

All in all, they have a combined bed capacity of 8,620, not including 55 health centers, 36 sub-health centers, of which four are maternity clinics spread out in the city's four districts.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte the other day said there were also plans to improve the facilities of the QC General Hospital to turn it into a world-class medical center.

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Usually, at the start of the school year, kids are more enthusiastic and energetic, as their minds and bodies are still fully-rested from the vacation and their active brains are fresh and hankering for new stimulation.

But, experience tells us that, after the novelty of a new school season has faded, and they become swamped daily with school tasks and assignments, children experience fatigue and become sluggish.

You can help him maintain his mental and physical energy by supplementing a healthy diet with natural brain and body boosters. Memory Plus Syrup with natural brain-enhancing nutrients can give your active school children the extra push to keep him on his toes, both mentally and physically, throughout the school year.

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Don't let your child fall prey to mental and physical fatigue while in school. Help him be the best student he can be by giving him Memory Plus regularly to revitalize his intellectual capabilities and sustain him in his physical activities.

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July 5 - 7

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WEDNESDAY, 5 JULY (EVERY NATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE)

EMBEDDING CSR: *The sessions focus on a company's core CSR values and strategies and engage CEOs and other key audiences in discussions designed to inform, inspire and engage. Focus includes integrating core CSR values, internal processes and systems, and how these may result in sustainable business operations and CSR. The call to action is for companies to integrate CSR activities into their core businesses.*

8:00 am *Conference Registration (Open to the Public)*
9:00 am – 11:00 am *Opening Ceremonies*

- Opening Remarks and Overview by VICTORIA P. GARCHITORENA, *Chairperson, LCF and President, Ayala Foundation*
- Taking CSR to Heart by JOSE P. LEVISTE, JR., *Chairman/President & CEO, Mirant Philippines*
- Introduction of Keynote Speaker by ROBERTO R. CALINGO, *President, LCF and Executive Director, Mirant Philippines Foundation*
- Keynote Address by DR. EMMETT D. CARSON, *President and CEO, The Minneapolis Foundation and Former Chairman,Council on Foundations (USA)*

Morning Plenary: CEO Perspectives on CSR

DR. ROLANDO B. HORTALEZA, *Chairman & CEO, Splash Group of Companies*
JOSE L. CUISIA, JR., President, *The Philippine-American Life & General Insurance Co.*
ROBERTO E. ABOITIZ, *Chairman, Aboitiz Equity Ventures*

11:00 am – 11:30 am *Luncheon Plenary Registration (By Invitation Only)*
11:30 am – 2:00 pm *Luncheon Plenary: The CEO Challenges to Sustainable CSR* (Joint Meeting of the MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES and the MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB in partnership with the League of Corporate Foundations.)

- Welcome Remarks & Session Overview by EDGAR O. CHUA, Chairman, *MAP CSR Committee and Country Chairman, Shell companies in the Philippines*
- The World Bank Message by JOACHIM VON AMSBERG, *Country Director, The World Bank*
- CSR Roadmap by MARILOU G. ERNI, *LCF Advisory Council Member and Executive Director, Petron Foundation*

Call to Action:
JOSE P. LEVISTE JR., *Chairman/President & CEO, Mirant Philippines*
NICASIO I. ALCANTARA, *Chairman, Petron Corporation*
FERNANDO ZOBEL DE AYALA, *President & COO, Ayala Corporation*

Closing Remarks
ATTY. RICARDO J. ROMULO, *Chairman, Makati Business Club*

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm (Plenary) *Philippine CSR Report: The Private Sector Response to Poverty Alleviation* by ROBERTO R. CALINGO, President, LCF and Executive Director, Mirant Philippines Foundation

- UN Global Compact and the UN Millennium Development Goals Declaration by NILEEMA K. NOBLE, *United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Philippines*
- Taking the Global Compact to Heart by PEDRO E. ROXAS, *Chairman, CADP Group Corporation*

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Breakout Session Registration (Open to the public)

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Breakout Session 1 in partnership with the Philexport and Association of Filipino Franchisers

- BS 1.1: Young CEOs & Entrepreneurs: Towards a More Integrated & Sustainable CSR
- BS 1.2: Role of HRD in Integrating CSR into the Core Business in partnership with the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines
- BS 1.3: ISQ (Spirituality Quotient): Living One's Value in the Workplace in partnership with the Women's Business Council and Bishops-Businessmen's Conference

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Small Group Discussions

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Fellowship Night Registration (By Invitation Only)

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Fellowship Night Cocktail Reception by Petron Foundation

THURSDAY, 6 JULY (EVERY NATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE)

CHANGING CSR MINDSETS AND PRACTICES: *The sessions focus on internal key success factors by engaging the senior management level and those who decide beyond the CEO on a company's strategic CSR directions and implementation. The call to action is to change the mindset and practices of the direct implementers of an organization's CSR programs towards conducting a more effective, efficient and sustainable CSR.*

7:30 am - 9:00 am (By Invitation Only) CEO Breakfast on the Edelman Trust Barometer in partnership with EON-The Stakeholder Relations Firm and Edelman Asia-Pacific.
Speaker: BOB GROVE, *Managing Director, Southeast Asia, Edelman Singapore*

8:00 am *Conference Registration*

9:00 am - 11:30 am *Recap of Day 1, Overview of Day 2*

- Launch of the CEO Perspectives on CSR and the LCF CSR Casebook, "Taking CSR to Heart" by the LCF Research Committee led by LYDIA SARMIENTO-ENRILE, *LCF Advisory Council Member and Chairperson, Sarmiento Foundation.*
- Plenary: Global and Local Challenges to CSR Integration - The Business Case for CSR, ANNE-MAREE HUXLEY, *Founder, Models of Success and Sustainability and Director, CSR Summit 2005 (AUSTRALIA)*

Panel for Local Companies in Transition:

Ma. Cecilia L. Alcantara, *President, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines*
Marilou G. Erni, *Executive Director, Petron Foundation*
Saturnino G. Belen, Jr., *Chairman, Bato-Balani Foundation*

11:30 am - 12:00 nn Luncheon Plenary Registration (By Invitation Only)

12:00 nn - 2:00 pm Luncheon Plenary: Creating Sustainable Value with CSR - Conceptual Framework by ROBERT DE QUELEN, *Deputy Managing Director, EON-The Stakeholder Relations Firm*

Creative Panel:

DAVID GUERRERO, *Chairman and Chief Creative Officer, BBDO Guerrero Ortega*
JEFFREY O. TARAYAO, *Head, Community Relations/CSR Programs, PR Division, Globe Telecom*

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Breakout Session Registration (Open to the Public)

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Breakout Session 2: Making CSR Happen - Role of the Strategic Business Units

- BS 2.1: Role of Finance: Financially Sustaining the CSR Efforts in partnership with the Financial Executives of the Philippines
- BS 2.2: Supplier Engagement: How Can Corporations Engage Suppliers in Solving Key Social Issues
- BS 2.3: Role of Health, Safety and Environment: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability in partnership with the Philippine Business for the Environment

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Fellowship Night Registration (By Invitation Only)

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Fellowship Night Cocktail Reception by Mirant Philippines

FRIDAY, 7 JULY

QUARTERBACKING THE CHANGE: *Managing and sustaining the changes in a company's CSR practices by engaging both internal and external stakeholders, specially employees and the youth. The call to action is to make CSR everybody's business – from the CEOs to the employees; from the boardroom to the workplace.*

At Every Nation Leadership Institute

7:30 am - 9:00 am Breakfast Forum with the North Face: Explorations for a Cause (By Invitation Only)

Speakers:
JIMMY THAI, *CEO, Primer Group of Companies (The North Face, Philippines)*
NEIL ALDRIN MALLARI, *Fauna & Faura International*
LALA ESPANOLA, *Calayan Rail Project*
ROMEO GARDUCE, *The North Face Athlete*

9:00 am - 11:30 am Recap of Day 2, Overview of Day 3

Plenary

- Harnessing Human Capital: Volunteerism and Employee Engagement In Solving Key Social Issues
- Report on Volunteerism Initiatives of LCF Members by MARY MARGARET M. BARRO, *LCF Executive Director*

Speakers:
DUNCAN POWER, *Executive Director, Charities Aid Foundation (AUSTRALIA)*
JOHN WINKETT, *Deputy Director, Charities Aid Foundation (AUSTRALIA)*

Volunteer Testimonials:
SUSAN T. JO, *Treasury Officer, Petron Corporation and Volunteer to the WIWAG Program of the Education for Youth Enterprise Foundation/Holcim Philippines*
JOHN ARIES HERMOSO, *Tribong MFI (Meralco Foundation)*

At Market! Market! Trade Hall A, 3rd floor

12: 00 nn - 2:00 pm Luncheon Plenary (By Invitation Only)

- Nurturing the Corporate Soul by ALEXANDRA P. ROMUALDEZ, President, Philippine Daily Inquirer
- A Model of Taking Collective Action: The Private Sector Response to Southern Leyte by COL. ALEJANDRO T. ESCAÑO, Vice-President, LCF and President, MFI (Meralco Foundation)

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Breakout Session 3: Volunteerism and Employee Engagement Marketplace in partnership with PFIZER, HANDS ON MANILA, and JESUIT VOLUNTEERS PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Marketplace of Companies and Volunteer Groups for Harnessing Employee Engagement/Youth Involvement in identified priority areas:

- BS 3.1: Engaging Volunteers in Enterprise & Livelihood Programs
- BS 3.2: Engaging Volunteers in Education, CSR Research, and Arts & Culture
- BS 3.3: Engaging Volunteers in Environment Initiatives
- BS 3.4: Engaging Volunteers in Disaster Response, Relief and Rehabilitation

4:30 pm - 4:45 pm Closing Ceremonies Registration

4:45 pm - 6:00 pm Closing Ceremonies

- Integration of the CSR Expo 2006 by LYDIA S. ENRILE, *LCF Advisory Council Member and Chairperson, Sarmiento Foundation*
- Keynote by EDGAR O. CHUA, *Country Chairman, Shell companies in the Philippines*
- Closing of the CSR Expo 2006 by ROBERTO R. CALINGO, *President, LCF and Executive Director, Mirant Philippines Foundation*

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

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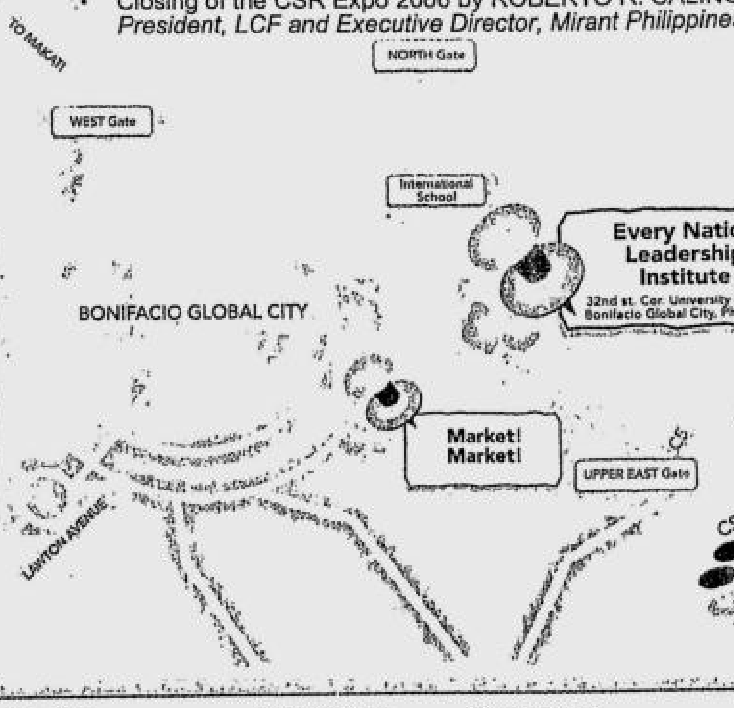

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Little (plant) shop around the corner

Makati Garden Club offers an oasis for stressed-out urbanites

By Tina G. Santos

THE 2,500-sq m property that serves as the club headquarters is home to 300,000 kinds of plants.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

AN OASIS SITS IN THE HEART OF Makati City, surrounded by skyscrapers, giant shopping malls and multiple-lane highways.

The Makati Garden Club (MGC) is a 2,500-sq m flower and garden center at the corner of Recoletos Street, near the intersection of Edsa and Ayala Avenue.

From the bougainvillea-covered arc that welcomes visitors near the main gate, to the tree-lined footpath that takes them around the area, the garden provides a refreshing respite from the traffic and pollution in the city.

Inside the cozy bungalow, it's easy to forget that you are in the country's financial business district and even possible to ignore the noise and gas fumes from passing motor vehicles.

Stress reliever

"People come here to relax, relieve stress and appreciate nature," MGC founding president Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio told the INQUIRER.

She added that many garden enthusiasts drop by to buy ornamental plants.

The MGC was formed in 1957 but it was only in 1974 that the group was given permission by business tycoon Enrique Zobel, the owner of the lot, to turn the property into its headquarters.

"This was a vacant lot, sometimes used as a bathroom for the dogs. That's why Mr. Zobel asked me to put up something here," Perez-Rubio said. She added that it took them about three years to spruce up the place.

The property used to measure about 3,500-sq. m. but they had to give part of the lot for the expansion of Edsa.

Plant lovers

"We used to meet at the private homes of the different members," said Perez-Rubio. "We thought then that we should put up a club that caters to people who want to learn how to appreciate plants."

At first, the group was called the Forbes Park Garden Club, as membership was exclusively for residents of the posh village. After other people from different communities around the city joined the club, the name was changed to the Makati Garden Club.

"I believe that appreciation for plant life is not limited to people in Forbes Park so I opened the club to other members," Perez-Rubio said.

Growing membership

From a small select group in the 1950s, the club's membership has grown to over a hundred.

Conchita "Ching" Caluag, 72, who once headed the organization, recalled: "During those times, housewives were part of either a garden or a gourmet club."

She lamented, however, that it is harder to recruit new members these days as most people are busy with work or business.

What was once idle land has now become a landscaped garden that is home to around 300,000 kinds of plants belonging to some 150 species. Shaded by trees and trellises are different kinds of herbs, ferns, palms and bromeliads, among others.

Different kinds of trees

The trees include the fruit-bearing star apple, santol, chico, macopa and mango, and flowering ones like the yellow tabebuia, kamuning, Palawan cherry, champaca and calachuchi. There are also full-grown pine, banaba, eucalyptus, ficus benjamina, acacia and balete trees.

Adding splashes of color to the garden are various flowering plants that include orchids, santan, margaritas, rubias, adelfa, alamanda and yellow sundrops.

Caluag said they are trying to develop an "old-fashioned" garden for the benefit of the younger generations, adding that the place has become a hangout, not only for club members but for families and anyone who wants to take a break from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Tours for special kids

Sometimes, she added, schoolchildren and even kids with special needs are treated to a tour of the place.

"We take them around and introduce to them the different kinds of plants," Caluag said. "That's why we've been trying to cultivate plants like begonias, lantana, chichirica and gumamela, just to name a few. Most kids today no longer know how these plants look like."

The garden's lush foliage has made it a favorite nesting place for many birds.

Haven for artists

But they are not the only visitors. Even artists come to the garden for a quiet, apolitical demonstration against turning everything into concrete. "Sometimes, the members also paint," Caluag quickly added, saying artists draw inspiration from the lush foliage.

The main entrance to the garden is sandwiched by wire fences adorned with flowering plants and vines, including yellow bells and forget-me-nots.

As visitors pass through an arc covered with pink bougainvillea flowers, a lined pathway takes them around the garden, and a function room where members hold meetings or bazaars.

Just a few steps away is a lagoon that greets visitors on their way to the flower shop located at the left side of the garden.

Self-sufficient

Caluag said the flower shop was set up to make MGC "self-sufficient." Apart from blooms like roses and Malaysian mums, the shop also sells various gardening tools and fertilizers.

Caluag said some of the plants and flowers sold at the garden come from some of their members' farms.

"Although we try to propagate plants here at the garden, there are some kinds, like the mums, that only grow in places with a cool climate like Tagaytay City," she added.

A few meters away from the flower shop is a garden room used for storage which members want to convert to a painting or exhibit area.

"The place not only offers a bit of peace and quiet amid the city noise, but a breath of fresh air amid the smog as well," said Luz Salve, 36, a resident of nearby Urdaneta Village.

Club officers and members, however, said that the club is more than just flowers and plants.

"This is also a center for learning everything about gardening, orchid and bonsai culture and flower arrangements, among others," Caluag said.

Another active member of the club, Regina Paterno, who also heads the environmentalist group Winner Foundation, said they often invite speakers who talk about various topics concerning plants and other related garden arts and crafts.

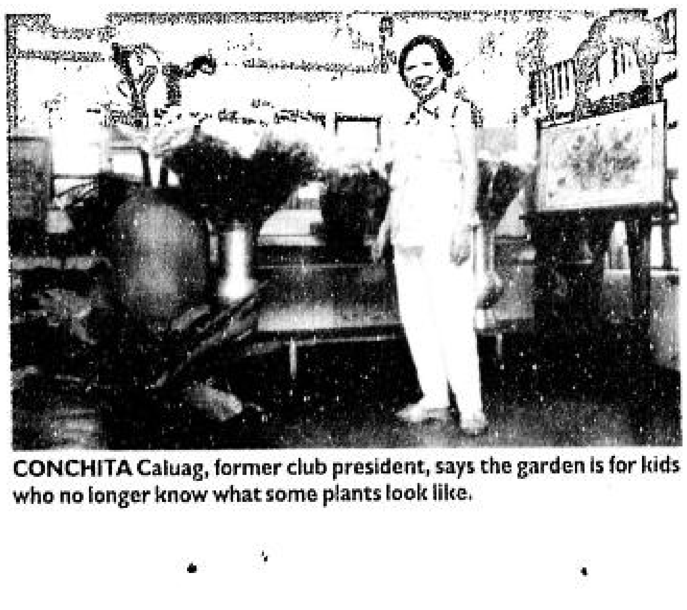
Other 'clients'

The MGC also supplies plants for the gardening projects of other organizations like the Winner Foundation's urban forests at the grounds of the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Pasay City and the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila.

Apart from plant and flower sales, the club has also sustained itself through various activities, the most well-known of which is the annual Festival of Trees (FOT), an auction of beautiful Christmas trees that had been decorated by MGC members and precious artworks donated by prominent Filipino artists and painters.

Proceeds from the FOT event are used for various antipoverty and environmental programs, Caluag said, adding that the club also relies on annual membership dues (P1,000), bazaars, donations and other fund-raising activities.

The garden is open to the public everyday, except on Sundays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.



CONCHITA Caluag, former club president, says the garden is for kids who no longer know what some plants look like.

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There's no bumpy ride for engaged couple Bades Timbang and Joel Zobel.

Amidst their busy schedules, with Bades working as an entrepreneur and Joel as a broadcast journalist, they still take time to have fun and enjoy scuba diving, golfing or simply driving to the provinces using their vehicle of choice – the Isuzu D-Max.

Not only do they look forward to tying the knot on December, they are as thrilled to beat the 16.53 km/liter mileage that put them on 1st Place in the 2004 Batangas to Dagupan Isuzu Challenge.

Will this couple end up happily in this year's Isuzu Challenge?

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No designated stops.
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Happening on July 7 to 8.

US officials deport ex-cop wanted for murder in RP

By Margaux C. Ortiz

HIS CRIMES HAVE FINALLY caught up with him.

A former Caloocan City policeman who fled to the United States after allegedly killing a man five years ago was deported to the Philippines after violating immigration laws abroad.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Interpol Division chief Claro de Castro Jr. said Segundo Santiago would finally be tried for separate cases of homicide and illegal possession of firearms pending at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court after the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported him last June 27.

De Castro said they had earlier received a letter from the Office of Migrant Workers at the Department of Foreign Affairs asking the NBI to check if Santiago had a criminal record. The OMW made the query after it received information about his deportation.

Two arrest warrants

Based on a check of its records, the NBI found out that branches 79 and 97 of the Quezon City RTC had issued two arrest warrants for the suspect for his supposed involvement in the killing of Eduardo Donato on May 30, 1991 on Edsa.

Investigation showed that Santiago, who was tagged as the mastermind in the killing, had used a .45-caliber pistol that was registered in the name of a certain Alejandro Penas.

De Castro said the suspect did not appear during investigation and the subsequent trial.

Fugitive from justice

The former policeman allegedly flew to the US to avoid prosecution, De Castro said.

However, he was arrested by Seattle authorities last May 16 for violating US immigration laws.

Santiago, who was escorted by ICE officers, arrived in Manila last June 29 and was immediately turned over to the NBI Interpol.

RESPITE FROM THE HEAT
Two girls frolic in Manila Bay, eager to catch some sun before the rains come in the afternoon. ROMY HOMILLADA

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Marikina motorists urged to use biofuel

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

DRIVING IN MARIKINA? BETTER IF YOU start using alternative fuel.

The City Council has passed a resolution "strongly encouraging" motorists in Marikina to use biofuel like coco-diesel and ethanol.

According to the resolution, the use of environment-friendly motor fuel additives would minimize the emission of harmful pollutants and help keep the air clean.

Compliance with the resolution, however, was not mandatory as city officials explained that most vehicles plying the city streets, including those owned by the local government, had not yet been calibrated to use biofuel.

In addition, biofuel may be cleaner and safer for the environment but available products were still more expensive than commercial diesel or gasoline, they said.

Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando is scheduled to sign the resolution this morning. The city government will also hold a weeklong exhibit on alternative fuel at the City Hall lobby.

Joining the exhibit are car manufacturing companies which will be displaying "environment-friendly" car models, manufacturers of emission-reducing gadgets and suppliers of alternative fuel like the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Marikina City Science High School graduate Raymond Joseph Amurao, who won in an international science fair, will also display his prize-winning project on extracting biofuel from janitor fish.

METROBRIEFS

Holiday today in Pasig

TRANSACTING business at the Pasig City Hall today? There will be no one to attend to you. To commemorate the 433rd foundation anniversary of Pasig City, Malacañang has declared July 3 a special nonworking holiday in the city. "It is but fitting and proper that the people of the City of Pasig be given full opportunity to celebrate the occasion with appropriate ceremonies," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said. Aside from local government offices, schools and even commercial establishments in the city will also be closed today. Pasig City's foundation day anniversary actually falls on July 2 but because yesterday was a Sunday, Malacañang just decided to move the holiday to the next working day.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

What's that weed?

GUESS what was growing in their backyard? Two women in Muntinlupa City were picked up for questioning on Saturday by the police after a marijuana plant was found in their backyard. Heidi Arciaga, 30, and Nida Taway, 38, were brought to the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Muntinlupa police for investigation, Ronald Arcilla of the Tunasan Barangay Police told the INQUIRER. Arcilla said they went to Arciaga's house at 178 Buendia Street in Barangay Tunasan, after they received a tip that the two women had a marijuana plant in their backyard. They took pictures of the plant which, according to SPO1 Benjie Madriaga of the Muntinlupa police DEU, was four feet high. The women, who denied that they owned or planted marijuana in their backyard, were released after nearly three hours of questioning by the police, said Madriaga. "We can't detain them because anyone could have planted it and their backyard is an open area where eggplants and others shrubs are planted," he explained.

Jocelyn R. Uy

DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW THAT FORMER PRESIDENTS Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada did not live at Malacañang Palace (main) during their term?

Aquino and Ramos chose to live at the nearby Arlegui Guest House, while Estrada stayed at the Premier Guest House. Interestingly, Aquino's office in the Premier Guest House was the bedroom of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the time her husband Ninoy was killed.

The three former Presidents and the last Spanish Governor-General, Fermin Jaudenes, were the only heads of the country who did not live at the Palace since it became the official residence of Spanish governors-general in 1863.

Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

Tensions in East Timor ease

DILI—EAST TIMOR ON SUNDAY waited for its new prime minister to be named, as the head of Australian peacekeepers welcomed a new era of calm after weeks of violent upheaval.

A week of peaceful protests in the capital Dili appeared to have eased tensions, and there was further optimism as behind-the-scenes talks were on track to select a premier within the next few days, politicians and officials said.

Leaders of the Fretilin party of ex-premier Mari Alkatiri are due to meet President Xanana Gusmao this week over the appointment of a new government to lead the tiny nation out of its worst crisis since independence in 2002.

Fighting between rival factions of the security forces and gang warfare raged for weeks, leaving at least 21 people dead and forcing some 150,000 to flee their homes in a nation of less than one million people.

Fears of fresh violence last week were allayed when up to 6,000 Alkatiri supporters left Dili after a major show of strength on the streets which passed off without any major clashes.

"We have got a watershed in the situation here as a result of the successful conduct of two major demonstrations," Australia's Brigadier Mick Slater told reporters Sunday.

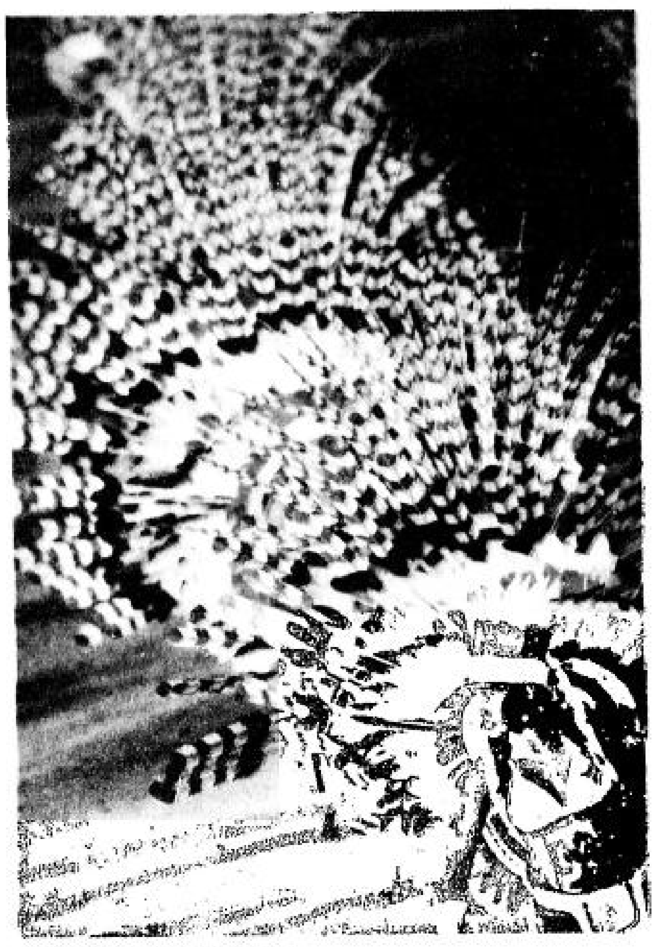
"I think we have had a successful week as far as stable operations have gone in Dili."

More than 2,200 peacekeepers, the majority from Australia but also from New Zealand, Portugal and Malaysia, arrived in the tiny nation in May as violence worsened in the country.

The unrest was sparked by Alkatiri's decision to sack 600 soldiers, nearly half of East Timor's tiny army, in March for desertion after they walked out claiming discrimination.

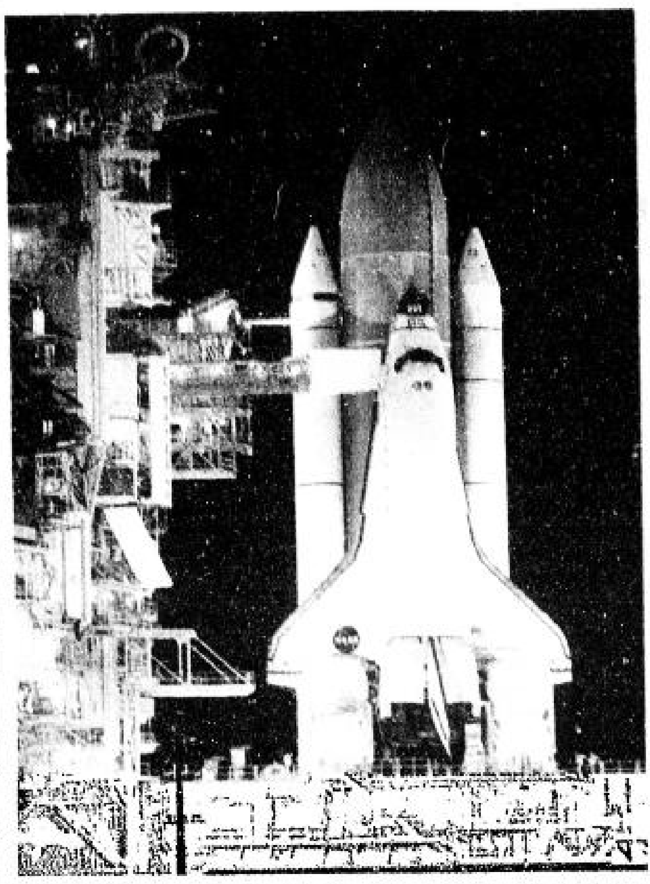
Alkatiri quit Monday after being widely blamed for the disturbances and over allegations he was involved in a plan to arm a civilian militia to attack his political foes.

One of the favorites to succeed Alkatiri, Jose Ramos-Horta, an independent and the 1996 Nobel peace prize winner, will run the government until a new leader is appointed by the president which could happen in the coming week. *AFP*



AMAZON CARNIVAL

A reveller wearing indigenous costume dances in unison during the Parintins jungle carnival deep in the heart of the Amazon forest July 2. Two rival teams named after oxen competed in a spectacle recounting indian tales, local history and the region's cattle ranching roots. REUTERS



THE SPACE shuttle Discovery sits on launch pad, July 1, at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. NASA scubbed the launch of Discovery due to unfavorable weather conditions. AFP

Clouds delay shuttle launch at least 1 day

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA.—NASA postponed the launch of space shuttle Discovery until Sunday at the earliest due to possible lightning and thunderstorms near the Florida launch pad on Saturday.

"It's not a good day to launch the shuttle so we're going to try again tomorrow," launch director Mike Leinbach said, with the countdown clock stopped at nine minutes.

Weather was a persistent worry leading up to Saturday's scheduled launch, with storm clouds hovering over Kennedy Space Center. The forecast for Sunday is no better, with a 60 percent chance that storms could force a delay of that launch too.

Sunday's preferred launch time is 3:26 p.m. (3:26 a.m. Monday in Manila).

This is only the second shuttle mission since the fatal Columbia accident in 2003, and is a critical turning point for NASA.

If Discovery is critically damaged on launch or afterward, and astronauts cannot fix the problem in orbit, the seven crew members would stay on the Space Station and wait for rescue, but NASA chief Mike Griffin has said it could be the end of the shuttle program.

That would leave the $100 billion International Space Station incomplete and would also mean the United States has no way to carry humans to space.

Griffin decided to launch the shuttle over the objections of the US space agency's head of safety and its top engineer, who wanted the mission delayed to allow more work on the fuel tank and its insulating foam.

The space shuttles began flying in 1981 and is scheduled for retirement in 2010 as NASA develops a new manned spaceship that can travel to the moon and beyond.

The shuttle is the only spacecraft able to lift the heavy components needed to finish the space station.

NASA has spent $1.3 billion on repairs and safety upgrades to the shuttle fleet since Columbia disintegrated over Texas in February 2003, killing all seven crew. *Reuters*

Japanese media cool on Koizumi-Bush ties

TOKYO—JAPAN SHOULD SEEK A more mature relationship with the United States rather than one based on personal bonding, the country's media said after Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's trip to Washington.

Koizumi displayed his media savvy by crooning Elvis Presley hits during a visit to Graceland with US President George W. Bush, with whom he has forged a close friendship over his five years in office.

But the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper said Japan's diplomacy should not be so dependent on the prime minister's personal ties.

"It was disappointing that Koizumi failed to make full use of his friendly Japan-US relationship on the real international scene," the newspaper said, bemoaning "Japan's failure" to win a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Tokyo failed to get a formal commitment of support from Washington for its bid to obtain a permanent seat on the Council, which was blocked by China. *AFP*

Dutch to hold polls in November

AMSTERDAM—THE NETHERlands will hold national elections in November after the collapse of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's center-right coalition government over immigration policy, officials said on Saturday.

Head of state Queen Beatrix had appointed former Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers to advise on the formation of a caretaker government and to set the date in November for the elections, the General Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

Opinion polls show the opposition Labor Party would win the elections but fall far short of an outright majority, leaving the political leaning of a future government unclear.

Balkenende's government is the third to collapse since 2002.

The polls cast doubt on whether Labor could build a majority coalition of left-wing parties, although voters backed leftist parties in local elections three months ago, rejecting anti-immigration populists and the ruling center-right parties.

Political analysts said the government's collapse could delay planned corporate tax cuts that could hit companies that earn the bulk of their income domestically, although blue chip firms with overseas operations would feel less of an impact.

Balkenende tendered his government's resignation on Friday after the small D66 party quit the administration over the handling of a Somali-born legislator's citizenship.

The caretaker government is widely expected to be a minority coalition of Balkenende's Christian Democrats (CDA) and VVD Liberals.

"Lubbers will investigate the possibility of a cabinet formed by CDA and VVD that will have to realize early elections on a date in November to be set under the direction of Lubbers," said the ministry.

The collapse of the government occurred amid public concern over the immigration and security policies which helped Balkenende win power in 2003. *Reuters*

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"Girl power!"

Marjorie Sy Wong
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Lourdes Alano
Navigator

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No turning off of aircons.
No designated stops.
No tricks.
All real.
Happening on July 7 to 8.

If you think the road is no place for women, meet best friends - Marjorie Sy Wong and Lourdes Alano.

Marjorie, who is into the family's catering business and Lourdes, who works for the Robinson's Land Corporation, have been badminton buddies for three years now.

Whether on the hardcourts or on the road, these girls are on the top of their game. Their mileage peaked at 22.10-km/liter when they finished 1st in the 2003 Manila to Cavite Isuzu Challenge.

Will the girls prove to be the stronger sex in this year's Isuzu Challenge?

Powered by:

The lonely American just got a bit lonelier

FOR AS LONG AS HUMANS have gathered in groups, it seems, some people have been left on the outside looking in. In postwar America in particular, the idea that loneliness pervades a portion of society has been a near-constant. Only the descriptions have changed: the "lonely crowd" alienation of the 1950s; the grim career-driven angst of the '70s and '80s; the "Bowling Alone" collapse of social connections of the '90s.

There is a new installment in the annals of loneliness. Americans are not only lacking in bowling partners, now they're lacking in people to tell their deepest, darkest secrets. They've hunkered down even more, their inner circle often contracting until it includes only family, only a spouse or, at worst, no one.

A recent study by sociologists at Duke and the University of Arizona found that, on average, most adults only have two people they can talk to about the most important subjects in their lives—serious health problems, for example, or issues like who will care for their children should they die. And about one-quarter have no close confidants at all.

"The kinds of connections we studied are the kinds of people you call on for social support, for real concrete help when you need it," said Dr. Lynn Smith-Lovin, an author of the study. *NYT*

Kuwait Cabinet quits after debacle

KUWAIT CITY—THE KUWAITI Cabinet resigned Saturday after the opposition scored a resounding victory in landmark parliamentary elections in which women took part for the first time.

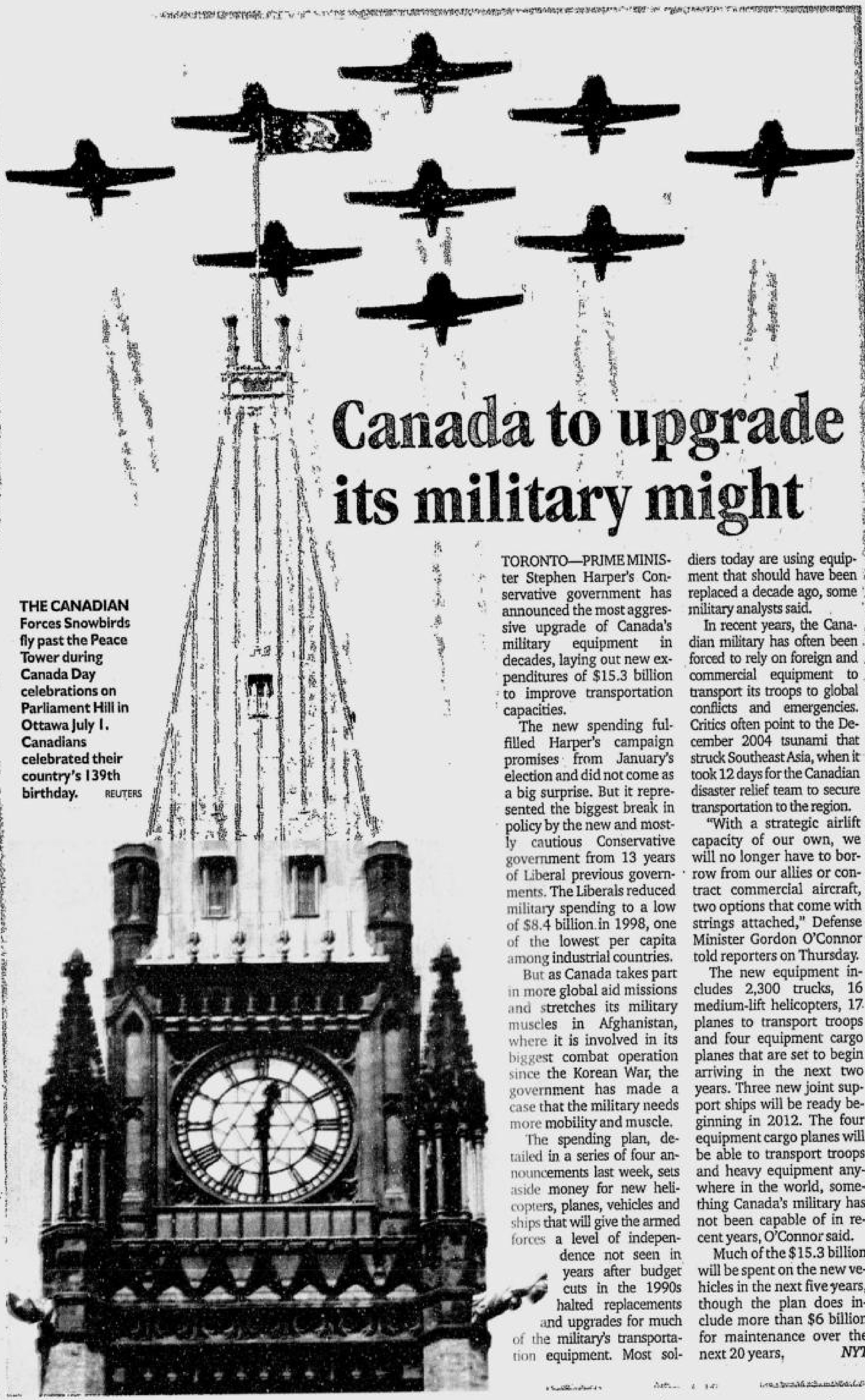
The resignation, which is required by law in the oil-rich Gulf emirate after an election, followed a final brief meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, is expected to begin consultations Sunday on the formation of a new Cabinet, which must be completed within two weeks.

The head of state can either ask the outgoing premier to form a new government or appoint a new prime minister.

Kuwait's parliamentary democracy is not based on a multi-party system and political parties are not recognized although several political groupings operate freely as de facto parties.

The Kuwaiti opposition, a loose alliance of Islamists, liberals and nationalists, won 33 seats in the 50-member parliament, securing the absolute majority required to push through legislation. *AFP*



THE CANADIAN Forces Snowbirds fly past the Peace Tower during Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill in Ottawa July 1. Canadians celebrated their country's 139th birthday. REUTERS

Canada to upgrade its military might

TORONTO—PRIME MINISTER Stephen Harper's Conservative government has announced the most aggressive upgrade of Canada's military equipment in decades, laying out new expenditures of $15.3 billion to improve transportation capacities.

The new spending fulfilled Harper's campaign promises from January's election and did not come as a big surprise. But it represented the biggest break in policy by the new and mostly cautious Conservative government from 13 years of Liberal previous governments. The Liberals reduced military spending to a low of $8.4 billion in 1998, one of the lowest per capita among industrial countries.

But as Canada takes part in more global aid missions and stretches its military muscles in Afghanistan, where it is involved in its biggest combat operation since the Korean War, the government has made a case that the military needs more mobility and muscle.

The spending plan, detailed in a series of four announcements last week, sets aside money for new helicopters, planes, vehicles and ships that will give the armed forces a level of independence not seen in years after budget cuts in the 1990s halted replacements and upgrades for much of the military's transportation equipment. Most soldiers today are using equipment that should have been replaced a decade ago, some military analysts said.

In recent years, the Canadian military has often been forced to rely on foreign and commercial equipment to transport its troops to global conflicts and emergencies. Critics often point to the December 2004 tsunami that struck Southeast Asia, when it took 12 days for the Canadian disaster relief team to secure transportation to the region.

"With a strategic airlift capacity of our own, we will no longer have to borrow from our allies or contract commercial aircraft, two options that come with strings attached," Defense Minister Gordon O'Connor told reporters on Thursday.

The new equipment includes 2,300 trucks, 16 medium-lift helicopters, 17 planes to transport troops and four equipment cargo planes that are set to begin arriving in the next two years. Three new joint support ships will be ready beginning in 2012. The four equipment cargo planes will be able to transport troops and heavy equipment anywhere in the world, something Canada's military has not been capable of in recent years, O'Connor said.

Much of the $15.3 billion will be spent on the new vehicles in the next five years, though the plan does include more than $6 billion for maintenance over the next 20 years, *NYT*

Hong Kong pro-freedom march draws over 20,000

HONG KONG—MORE THAN 20,000 Hong Kong residents took to the streets Saturday to demand full democracy for the former British colony, on the ninth anniversary of its handover to China.

Carrying banners that read "Justice, Equality, Democracy, Hope," the protesters flooded out of the gates of Victoria Park in the city center, bound for downtown government offices some 3 km away.

To beating drums, they shouted "We Want Universal Suffrage" and waved colorful placards that read "When will we have a timetable for universal suffrage?" Protesters representing teachers and other workers as well as antiracism, animal rights and harbor protection groups were also at the rally.

Police estimated that the turnout was about 28,000, while organizers said 58,000 marched, more than last year's 20,000 people.

Amid fading calls for democracy nine years after the 1997 handover, activists hoped the appearance of retired deputy leader secretary Anson Chan would reignite their once-formidable campaign for universal suffrage. *AFP*

China opens rail link to remote Tibet

BEIJING—THIS WEEKEND, CHINA opened the world's highest railway, a 710-mile line that crosses the vertiginous Tibetan Plateau and forges a steel bond with the once-secluded Buddhist holy city of Lhasa.

The railway, inaugurated on Saturday by President Hu Jintao and top Communist Party cadres on a deluxe opening run, is an engineering marvel that traverses unstable permafrost and reaches more than 16,000 feet above sea level.

Party officials have hailed the $4.1-billion project, which was decades in the making, as a milestone in its efforts to develop its vast, poor western region and bring an infusion of people and prosperity to remote Tibet.

But Tibetan and foreign critics say that the railway benefits Han Chinese, China's dominant ethnic group, at the expense of Tibetan natives. *NYT*

US threatens to cut aid to Nepal over rebel arms

KATMANDU, NEPAL—THE UNITED States has warned it will cut off millions of dollars in annual aid to Nepal if communist rebels join the country's proposed interim government without first giving up their weapons.

"If the Maoists continue to use violence after they enter the government, our law says that we can't supply assistance to those who support a terrorist group. We have to consider them a consider a terrorist group until they give up arms," said US Ambassador to Nepal James F. Moriarty.

Moriarty's remarks came after he met with Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on Saturday before leaving for Washington.

The US provides Nepal with $45 million a year in development, education and health aid.

In the past, the US has given Nepal's government millions of dollars in military aid to fight the Maoists rebels, but suspended it after King Gyanendra seized absolute power last year.

The communists' leader criticized Moriarty's stance.

"I am not surprised with the comments by the ambassador to Nepal, because he does not want peace in Nepal," said Prachanda, who goes by a single name.

"He seems very unhappy and restless over the political development, and is trying to dismantle the harmony that is about to develop among the political parties."

The rebels, who have waged a decade-long war to seize control of the Himalayan nation, have announced that they're joining an interim government to be formed along with main political parties.

The rebels had supported weeks of massive street protests and a general strike organized by an alliance of seven major political parties in April that forced King Gyanendra to relinquish the absolute power he'd seized in early 2005. *AP*

Liechtenstein aims to clean up image as shady financial haven

VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN—THE cutting edge architecture of a string of brand-new banks might seem incongruous in a village topped off with a medieval royal castle.

But Liechtenstein—with 34,600 residents in an area a little over double the size of Manhattan—is no ordinary corner of Europe.

The nation sandwiched between Austria and Switzerland gained what fame it has as a banking and financial services center, a place where ill-gotten assets could be safely stashed away and no one would ask questions.

Now the regulations have changed—and it's time the rest of the world took notice of the efforts the country is making, says the ruling Prince Alois von und zu Liechtenstein.

"I think it was rightly a major problem that the outside world found with Liechtenstein," said Alois, who has sweeping powers—including the right to dismiss governments, veto new laws and cast the deciding vote on the appointment of new judges.

But now, Liechtenstein has strong regulations to effectively fight money laundering and terrorism funding, he said.

Europe's fourth-smallest sovereign state got rich on its status as an offshore tax haven, with strict rules on banking secrecy. Almost a third of its gross domestic product of 4.2 billion Swiss francs (US$3.4 billion; euro 2.71 billion) comes from financial services, including banking.

But come the end of the 20th century, the rest of the world was getting annoyed with its role in international crime and, potentially, terrorism financing.

In 2000, both the G-8 group of leading industrialized nations and the 26-nation Financial Action Task Force put Liechtenstein on their blacklist of nations deemed uncooperative in fighting money laundering. The principality scrambled to revise its laws, and a year later was relieved to be removed from the blacklist.

Almost simultaneously, the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development included Liechtenstein on a separate blacklist of "uncooperative tax havens."

"The main reason countries were angry was we had very bad implementation," says Alois, appearing relaxed in one of his castle's state rooms. "Our system of giving legal aid (to other countries) was very poor."

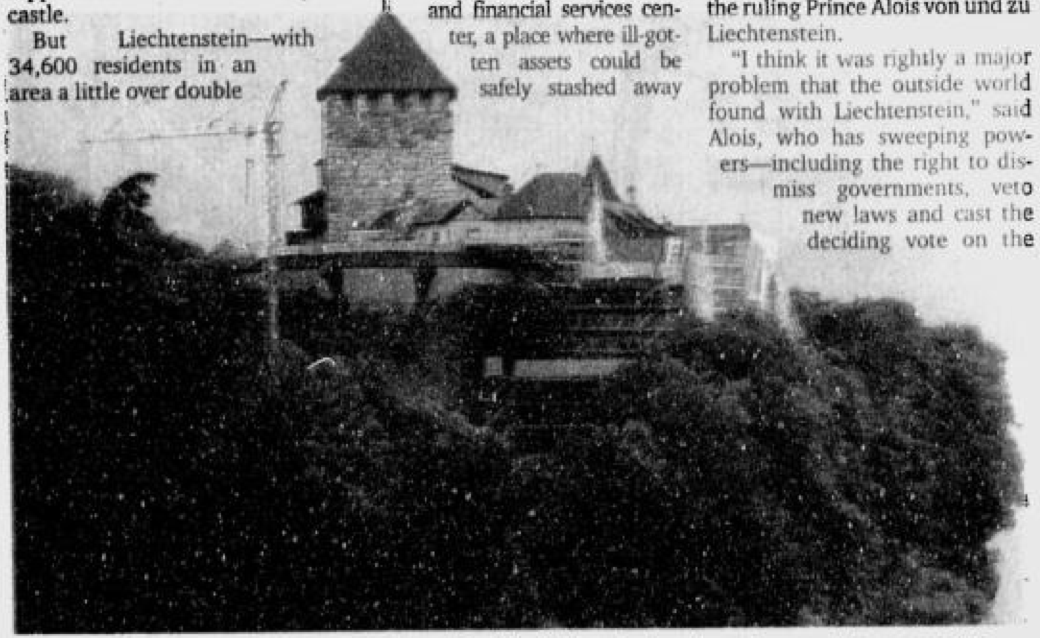
Being on the blacklists spurred the Liechtenstein authorities into action. Since then, new laws have been passed to tighten regulations, more judges and lawyers have been brought in to supervise and regulate the financial institutions and a financial intelligence unit set up to watch for wrongdoers. In 2001, the country was removed from the money-laundering list.

"After 2001, the complete legal framework changed," says Michael Lauber, chief executive of the Liechtenstein Bankers' Association.

Liechtenstein is still on the tax-haven blacklist, but is lobbying to have its name removed. "This is based on old info," Lauber says.

Grace Perez-Navarro, a tax haven specialist with the OECD, said Liechtenstein remains on the list of uncooperative tax havens "because, unlike 33 other jurisdictions, it has not made a commitment to the OECD to improve transparency and to establish effective exchange of information for tax purposes with OECD countries."

As in neighboring Switzerland, tax evasion is not a crime in Liechtenstein. The country does not provide legal assistance to other countries investigating alleged tax evasion and also wants to maintain as much of its banking secrecy as possible. *AP*



UNDATED picture of Liechtenstein's Prince Castle in Vaduz that is undergoing complete renovation. Ruling Prince Alois von und zu Liechtensteine can see almost his entire realm from the castle. AP

PRINCE Alois AP

Osama accuses Iraq Shiites of Sunni genocide

ANDRE Whyte, left, father of Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Whyte helps hold up Annette Whyte, center, as she places a flower on her son's casket during a burial ceremony at Long Island June 30. Whyte, 21, of Brooklyn, died June 21 after being hit by sniper fire while on patrol in Ramadi, Iraq. AP

PARIS—AL-QAIDA LEADER Osama bin Laden accused Iraqi Shiites of waging "genocide" against Sunnis and warned of retaliation, according to a new audiotape posted on the Internet.

The message, the second in as many days purportedly from the Western world's most wanted man, came as yet another sectarian car bombing shook Baghdad, killing 66 people in one of the worst attacks this year.

A White House official said the message, if authenticated by US intelligence services, reflected al-Qaida's "dark vision" and shows that Bin Laden and his supporters "offer nothing beyond further fighting, conflict and misery."

The speaker in the audio message posted on Saturday also warned against deploying international forces in lawless Somalia and expressed backing for Islamist forces there.

The voice said Iraqi Sunnis, once dominant under the ousted regime of Saddam Hussein, were being subjected to "a campaign of genocide at the hands of the gangs of grudge and treachery," a reference to Shiites.

The speaker warned that Iraqi Shiites could therefore expect retribution.

"It is not possible that many of the people of the south (who are predominantly Shiites) join America and its allies in attacking (the Sunni bastions of) Fallujah, Ramadi, Baquba, Mosul, Samarra, Al-Qaim and other cities and villages and (expect) their regions to be spared a reaction and harm," he said.

The recording emerged on the same day that a group calling itself "the Supporters of the Sunni Community" claimed a devastating Baghdad car bombing that killed at least 66 people in a Shiite neighborhood, saying it was in retaliation for Shiite attacks on Sunnis.

The voice on the tape also accused the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, a Shiite, of being "treacherous and apostate."

"The first step required to bring stability to Iraq is to drive out the crusader armies by force, then to punish the leaders of (Shiite) parties" who "lied to the people by telling them that participation in the political process is the way to drive out the occupiers," he added.

The speaker attacked Iraq's Sunni vice president Tareq al-Hashemi, lumping him with Shiite leaders allegedly deceiving the Iraqi people.

The voice on the tape also endorsed the choice of Abu Hamza al-Muhajer as head of al-Qaida's Iraq branch as successor to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was killed in a US air strike June 7.

"I pray God Almighty that he will be the best successor to the best predecessor ... and I recommend to him to focus his fight on the Americans and those who support them," the message added.

The new statement was posted after the CIA authenticated a message by the fugitive al-Qaida leader released on Friday in which he said that jihad, or holy war, would go on in Iraq despite Zarqawi's killing.

The speaker went on to slam Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh as an "American agent" and urged Somalis to reject his mediation.

"I warn against the tricks of the infidels... such as Ali Abdullah Saleh's invitation to you and your adversaries to conduct a dialogue in Sanaa," the speaker said. "He is an obedient American agent." The speaker vowed that his supporters would fight any US or international forces sent to Somalia and reserved the right to punish any countries that provided such forces on their own soil "and anywhere possible."

He appealed to Somalis to back Islamic court forces who took the capital Mogadishu from a US-backed warlord alliance on June 5 and are now led by a cleric accused by Washington of having ties to al-Qaida. *AFP*

Bird flu tends to kill youth, as shown by 1918 epidemic—WHO

AVIAN FLU TENDS TO KILL younger people, much as the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic did, the World Health Organization said Friday as it released an analysis of more than 200 cases.

Deaths from the disease surged in the winter for the last three years, the report said, so a rise in fatal cases can be expected late this year even if the virus does not mutate into a form more easily transmitted.

Moreover, the report warned, the risk of the virus becoming more transmissible remains high "because of the widespread distribution of the H5N1 virus in poultry and the continued exposure of humans."

The median age of victims with confirmed cases was 20 years, the report said. The highest death rate—73 percent—was among patients aged 10 to 19, while the overall fatality rate was 56 percent.

A high death rate among young adults echoes the pattern found in the 1918-1919 epidemic, said Dr. Michael T. Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. Scientists contend that year's H1N1 virus was also an avian flu that mutated until it spread easily among humans; although it was fatal to only about 2 percent of those who caught it, that was enough to kill between 40 million and 100 million people worldwide.

When the second wave of the Spanish flu struck Boston in the fall of 1918, Osterholm said, the flu death rate among people ages 18 to 30, which had been about 30 per 100,000 people in previous years, soared to 5,700 per 100,000.

The annual flu, by contrast, tends to kill the very young and the very old, often from secondary bacterial pneumonia.

In the Asian and Middle Eastern countries where the disease is most pervasive, people of all ages are exposed to chickens, but 90 percent of the cases have been in people under 40, so something in young adults must make them more susceptible.

Evidence suggests that many young people in 1918 and quite a few in this outbreak are killed by a "cytokine storm"—the body's own immune reaction, which floods the lungs with fluid. Young adults generally have strong immune systems.

People over 50 have the lowest death rate, but it is still 18 percent, which is a huge impact compared with seasonal flu. *NYT*

NOVICES
Thai Buddhist hill tribe novices hold lotus flowers as they pray at a temple during an ordination ceremony in Bangkok, July 2. The six hundred novices will enter the monkhood for three months to study Buddhist teaching during the Buddhist lent and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the accession to the throne of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. AFP

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"There's no point in being second place," claim Dino Directo, a motoring journalist and Jeff Reyes, a Senior Account Manager for a major broadsheet. They will hit no brakes and leave no roads untread in their quest to top their previous mileage rating roaring at 36.48 km/liter.

This feat earned them the number one spot in the Isuzu Challenge held from Alabang to Batangas in 2002.

Will these mavericks break through boundaries in this year's Isuzu Challenge?

Israel bombs Palestinian PM's office

Says it will use all means to have soldier released

GAZA CITY—AN ISRAELI AIR RAID struck the Gaza offices of Palestinian prime minister Ismail Haniya early Sunday, ratcheting up the pressure to free a captured Israeli soldier even as mediation talks continued.

Haniya, who was not present at the time of the raid, swiftly condemned the attack, which set his office ablaze in a dramatic warning to the Hamas government following multiple Israeli threats against their leadership.

"It's an attack against a Palestinian symbol. We ask the international community and the Arab League to take its responsibilities towards our people and intervene" to end what he called Israel's "insane policy" he said.

Witnesses said at least one missile struck Haniya's office shortly before 2:00 a.m., sparking a blaze nevertheless swiftly doused by a team of Palestinian firefighters.

A second near-simultaneous air strike in the northern Gaza strip town of Jabaliya killed a member of the armed wing of Haniya's Hamas movement and wounded another, marking a fifth straight night of Israeli air raids on Gaza.

Israel has repeatedly threatened to target Haniya following the capture on June 25 of an Israeli soldier by three Palestinian militant groups, including the armed wing of the premier's Islamist Hamas movement.

The Israeli military confirmed it carried out an air strike on Haniya's office and another two targeting Hamas infrastructure in Gaza, saying the Israel Defense Forces would use "all means" to secure the soldier's release.

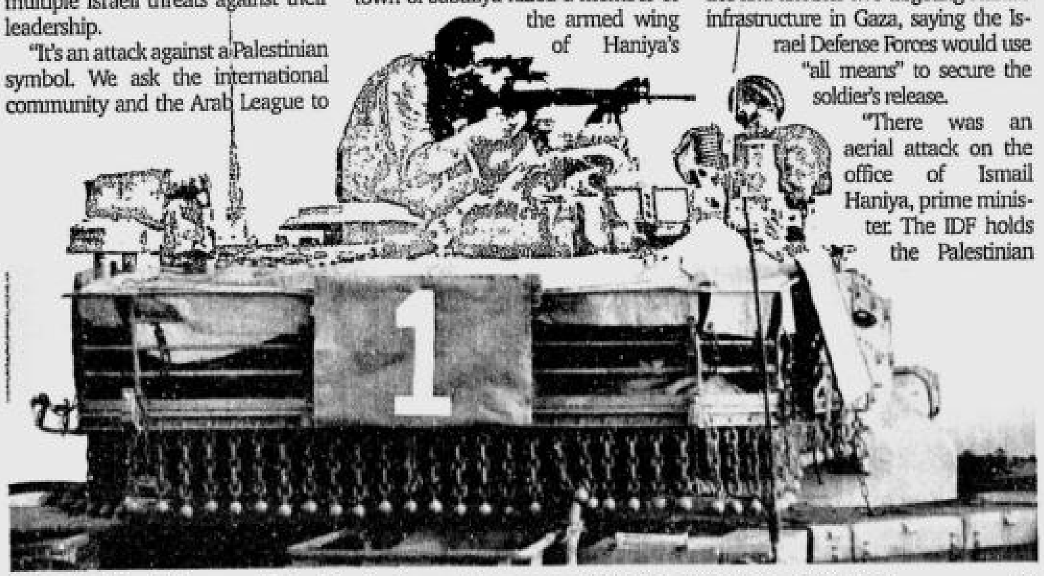
"There was an aerial attack on the office of Ismail Haniya, prime minister. The IDF holds the Palestinian Authority and the Hamas government responsible for the recent attack on the soldier and his fate," a spokesperson told reporters.

"The IDF will continue to employ all means at its disposal against Palestinian terrorist infrastructure in the Gaza Strip to allow the unconditional return of Corporal Gilad Shalit," she added.

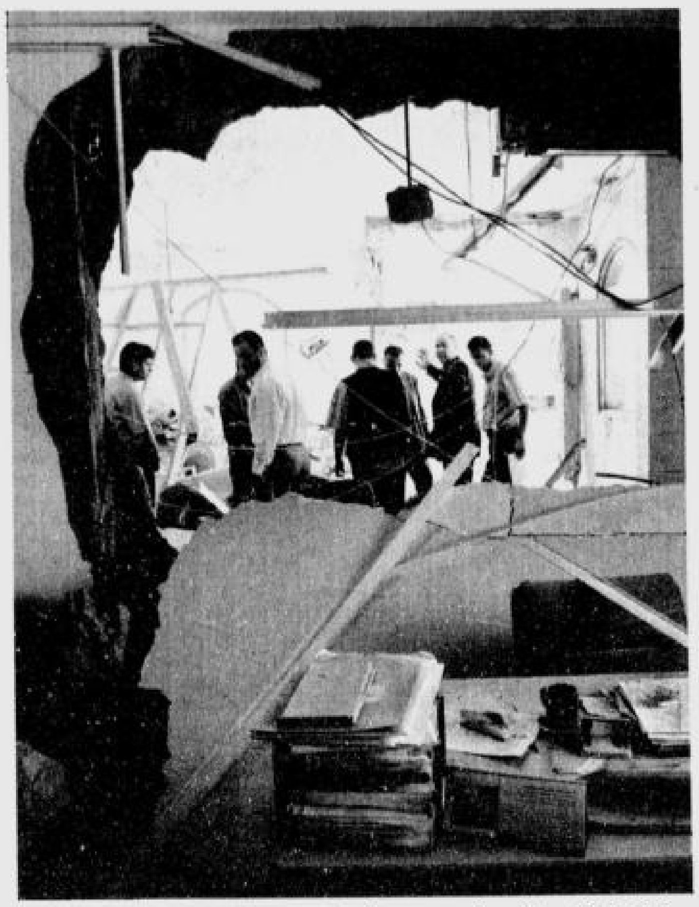
The Israeli military confirmed another two air strikes against Hamas outposts in the Gaza refugee camp of Jabaliya where "several terrorists were present at the time planning terrorist attacks against Israel." A Palestinian security official said one of the attacks targeted a school run by the Islamist movement, which operates a powerful social welfares wing in the impoverished Gaza Strip. The Israeli military denied a school was hit.

A senior official from Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas' office had warned Saturday that Haniya's life could be on the line if a solution was not reached soon allowing the release of the 19-year-old Israeli corporal, Gilad Shalit.

"His life is at risk if the Palestinian groups do not free the Israeli soldier," a high-ranking official said on condition of anonymity. *AFP*



AN ISRAELI soldier atop his tank looks through the scope of his rifle at the Gaza Strip July 1. AFP



PALESTINIAN officials inspect the damage to the office of Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya after it was hit in an Israeli missile strike July 2. Haniya was not in his office at the time. AP

Israel squeezes ordinary Gaza citizens, who turn to Hamas

By Ian Fisher

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP—OMAR Areny's wife had left their 11th-floor apartment here only once in three days. When the power is out—which is often since the Israeli military knocked out nearly half of Gaza's power supply on Wednesday—that means a long climb up the stairs.

"It's a prison but there are no guards," said Omar Areny, 40. waiting for the power to return as Israeli artillery shells thudded nearby on Friday. "You are obliged to stay in your house."

No electricity means not only no elevators, but also less water, refrigeration and air conditioning in midsummer. The Israeli military campaign in Gaza—aimed at forcing the release of a captured Israeli soldier—has come with other problems: The closed borders have locked out fuel, which has nearly run dry, and food. The sonic booms set off by Israeli jets in the night terrify the Arenys' four children.

Even after years of fighting, Omar Areny said, Israel had again misunderstood the Palestinian mind.

He and others here believe the military campaign is aimed less at fighters than at making Palestinians' lives so miserable that they turn against their government, which is now run by the militant group Hamas. Hamas' military wing led the attack into Israel last Sunday in which the soldier was captured.

"I don't like the government, but in these circumstances I will support it," said Areny, a member of Fatah, Hamas' rival. "I cannot stand with the Israelis against our people."

Nearly a week after the attack in which the Israeli soldier was taken, the Israeli military operation has not yet created a full-blown crisis for the 1.3 million people who live in the already poor and violent Gaza Strip.

But aid groups worry that one could come more quickly now than it might have under other circumstances. Gaza has already been squeezed financially—and civil servants like Areny not paid for four months—since Hamas took power in January elections and the West cut off financial aid.

"They are heading for the abyss unless they get electricity and fuel restored," Jan Egeland, the UN emergency coordinator, said. *NYT*

Do You Have Dyspepsia?

Parang tambol ang tiyan. May kabag. Masakit ang sikmura. If you frequently experience these symptoms, you may have a common stomach condition known as Dyspepsia.

What is Dyspepsia?
Dyspepsia is a recurring discomfort in the chest and stomach regions. Aside from **bloating, gas** and **stomach pains**, other symptoms include **heavy stomach, fullness** and **nausea.**

Dyspeptic symptoms usually appear when stomach movement slows down and food does not empty from the stomach. These symptoms often follow meals, but can occur anytime.

Treatment
Frequent remedies taken for Dyspepsia-like symptoms are drinks like tea, soft drinks or antacids. These remedies may relieve some, but not all of the symptoms of Dyspepsia.

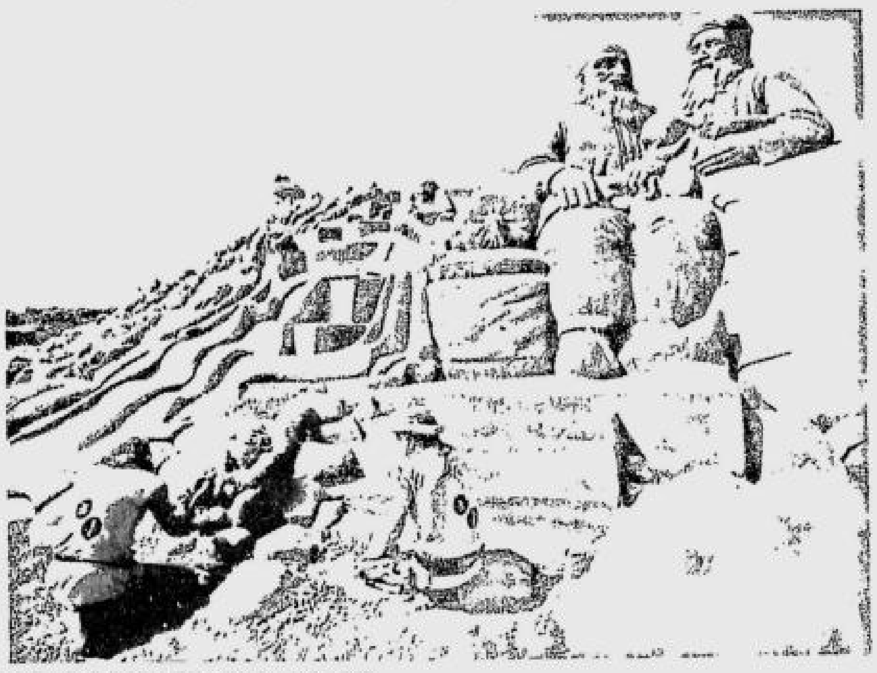
A class of medication called Prokinetics can relieve Dyspeptic symptoms by restoring motility or normal stomach movement. Prokinetic drugs are what most doctors prescribe for Dyspepsia. The most prescribed Prokinetic drug is Domperidone, available in 10mg tablet form.

See Your Doctor
If symptoms persist, it is best to see your doctor. A Philippine Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) doctor will recommend the right treatment for Dyspepsia.

By Dr. Ramon E. Carpio,
Chairman, Council on Dyspepsia,
Philippine Society of Gastroenterology

Sa Dyspepsia, Domperidone Motilium

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.



TRIBUTE TO SHEHERAZADE
Sand sculptors carve a creation during the Sand Sculptures Festival in Blankenberge in northern Belgium July 1. A team of forty carvers from around the world spent five weeks building a giant sculpture representing the world of Sheherazade and the giant book of Thousand and One Nights. REUTERS

No breakthrough in WTO talks

GENEVA—WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) states failed yet again on Saturday to break a deadlock in global free trade negotiations but insisted the "round" was not dead.

Pronouncing the trade round in crisis, WTO chief Pascal Lamy said a deal could still be struck in the coming weeks before negotiators finally run out of time.

Major trade powers have agreed a more prominent role for Lamy in the increasingly desperate search for compromise in the near 5-year-old trade round, after two days of talks failed to heal a split over farm and industrial goods.

"We have clearly reached something of an impasse here. But does that mean the round is dead? No. We have no intention of giving up hope," US Trade Representative Susan Schwab told a news conference.

Despite warnings by Lamy that the future of the round hung by a thread, top trading powers were unable to agree on how far rich nations should slash farm subsidies and tariffs and developing countries open their manufacturing markets.

"There has been no progress, therefore we are in a crisis," Lamy said. "But the sense is that it remains doable." Without a deal this weekend, Lamy had said the WTO could run out of time to finish the Doha round, which also covers complex issues such as services, by the end of the year, which is the absolute cut-off.

Calling the meeting neither a "success nor a disaster," European Union trade chief Peter Mandelson said earlier that a breakthrough must come before the end of July.

Heads of government of the so-called G6—Australia, Brazil, India, Japan, the EU and the United States—which has been taking the lead in negotiations, could soon meet, possibly at the G8 summit later this month in St Petersburg.

The talks stalled late on Friday at the end of the first of an originally scheduled three days of negotiations between ministers from some 60 WTO states who had hoped to settle the core issues that are delaying progress on the overall round.

Developing countries said they would not let rich nations negotiate away the primary purpose of the Doha round—to give economic opportunities to millions living in poverty.

"We are not here to bend backwards to accommodate more market access for industrialized nations. We are not going to allow ourselves to be blamed for any failure," said Zambian Trade Minister Dipak Patel.

The talks pit the European Union and the United States against each other and against leading developing states.

Despite the paralysis, some diplomats talked of a "managed crisis." Few saw the end-June meeting as the moment of truth. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Tearful Agassi, other US stars tumble out /A36

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Giants, Bulls seal 2nd title clash

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS TOOK THE HARDER ROUTE BUT finished off Alaska with the same flair it displayed years ago to reach the finals of the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup last night.

Noy Castillo's drive off Tony dela Cruz with 13.4 seconds left allowed the Giants to preserve their gamelong brilliance with a thrilling 90-89 win over the Aces in their Game 7 showdown at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"When we're down 1-3, almost everybody had written us off," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio after beating Alaska's Tim Cone in a best-of-seven series twice in a row. "But we just kept the faith and stayed together as a team."

Later in the night, Junthy Valenzuela nailed an open jumper with almost no time left to carry Red Bull to a pulsating 86-84 win over San Miguel Beer that set up a best-of-seven titular clash with the Giants.

It is the second straight title showdown for Red Bull and Purefoods with the Bulls prevailing over the Giants for the Fiesta Conference crown early this year.

Red Bull pulled off the winning play with 3.7 seconds left after Danny Seigle had tied the game at 84 with two free throws.

Rico Villanueva received the throw-in, passed it to Mick Pennisi, who found Valenzuela free.

"I don't know if there was any game in the history of the PBA like this," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao after the Bulls won another Game 7 for the third time in franchise history.

"The way it was fashioned out was really mind-boggling. Give the guys credit. We wouldn't be here if not for their mental toughness."

It will be the ninth championship stint for Guiao and the fifth for the Bulls, who will be in their first All-Filipino title series.

"I haven't thought about Purefoods yet but I'm sure they want to get back at us," said Guiao.

As in the 2002 Governors Cup, the Giants overcame a 0-2 deficit and captured the title over Alaska in the seventh and last game.

The only difference this time was Gregorio and his troops needed to sweep the series' last three games.

"It was a great display of character," said Gregorio after booking a return ticket to the championship for the second straight conference. "This team played with so much energy, and now that we're in the finals, we want to go all the way."

Gregorio and the Giants lost last conference's Fiesta Cup to Red Bull.

Kerby Raymundo sizzled in the final half by scoring 15 of his 25 points on top of 13 boards but he committed a costly turnover late in the rally that had the Aces storming back from 19 points down.

PUREFOODS' Richard Yee (9) tries to wiggle out of an Alaska double team set up by Mike Cortez and Sonny Thoss in yesterday's game. RYAN LIM

The Game 7 scores

First Game

PUREFOODS 90—Raymundo 25, Castillo 16, Yap, R. 14, Yap, J. 12, Limpo 8, Pingris 7, Evangelista 6, Yee 2.

ALASKA 89—Cortez 21, Miller 15, Cariaso 15, Belasco 15, Dela Cruz 13, Ferriols 6, Thoss 4, Wilson 0, Hugnatan 0, Laure 0.

Quarters: 29-14; 54-43; 72-63; 90-89

Second Game

RED BULL 86—Villanueva 22, Pennisi 15, Tugade 14, Valenzuela 13, Cruz 10, Baguio 5, Robinson 4, Bugia 2, Fonacier 1.

SAN MIGUEL 84—Seigle 35, Pena 17, Racela 10, Adriano 9, Ildefonso 8, Calaguio 5, Gonzales 0, Cablay 0, Hontiveros 0.

Quarters: 24-21, 41-38, 66-61, 86-84

- Best-of-seven PBA championship series starts on Wednesday

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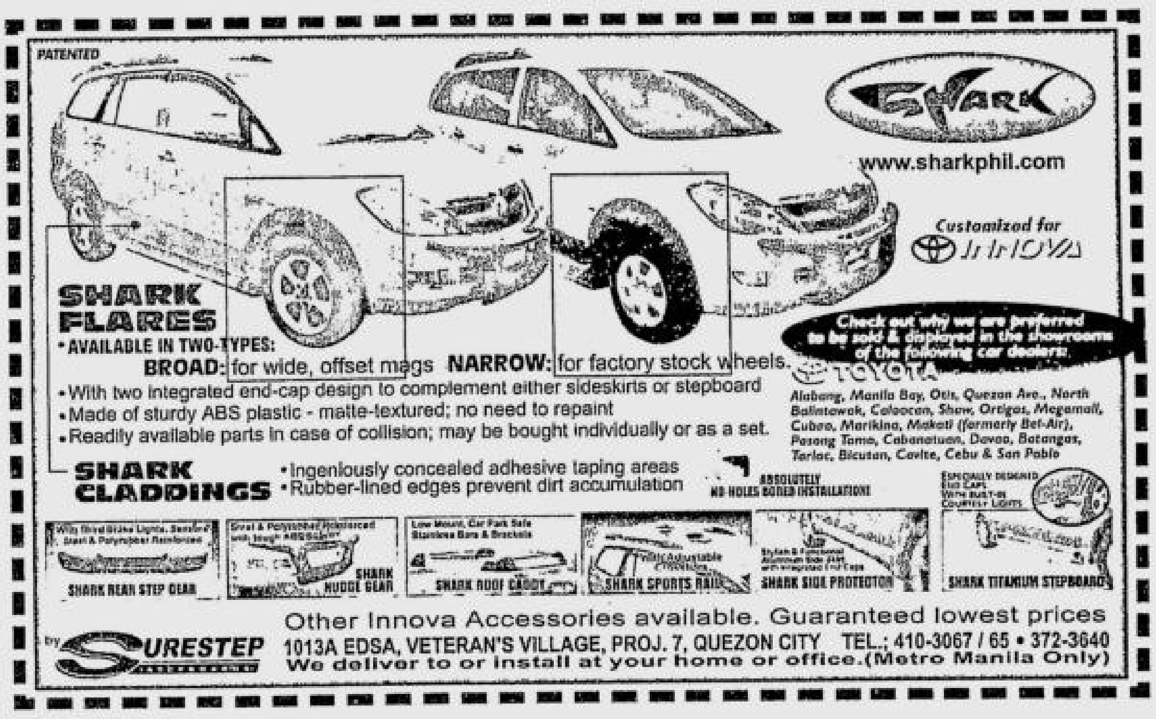

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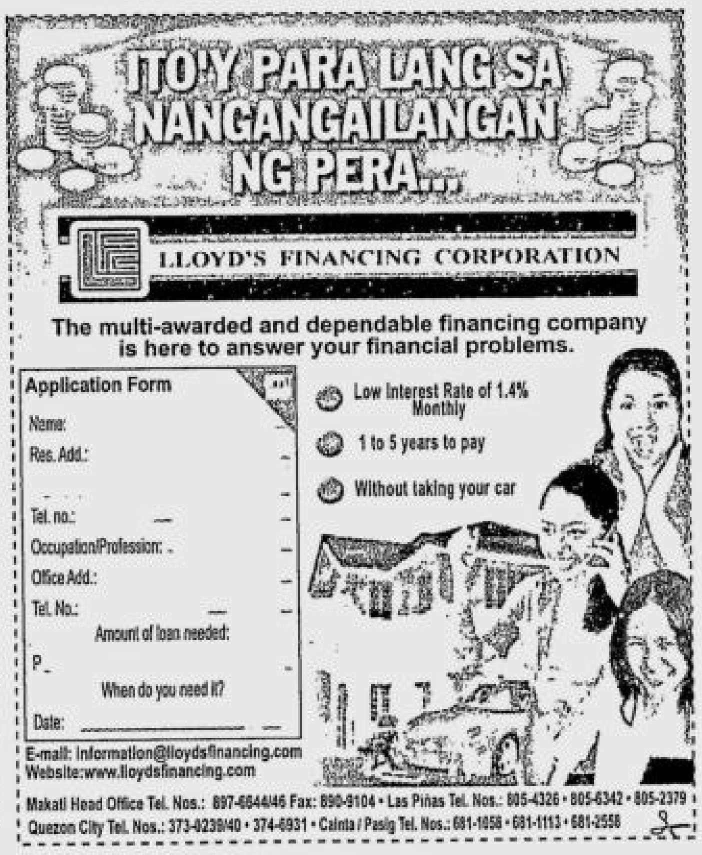

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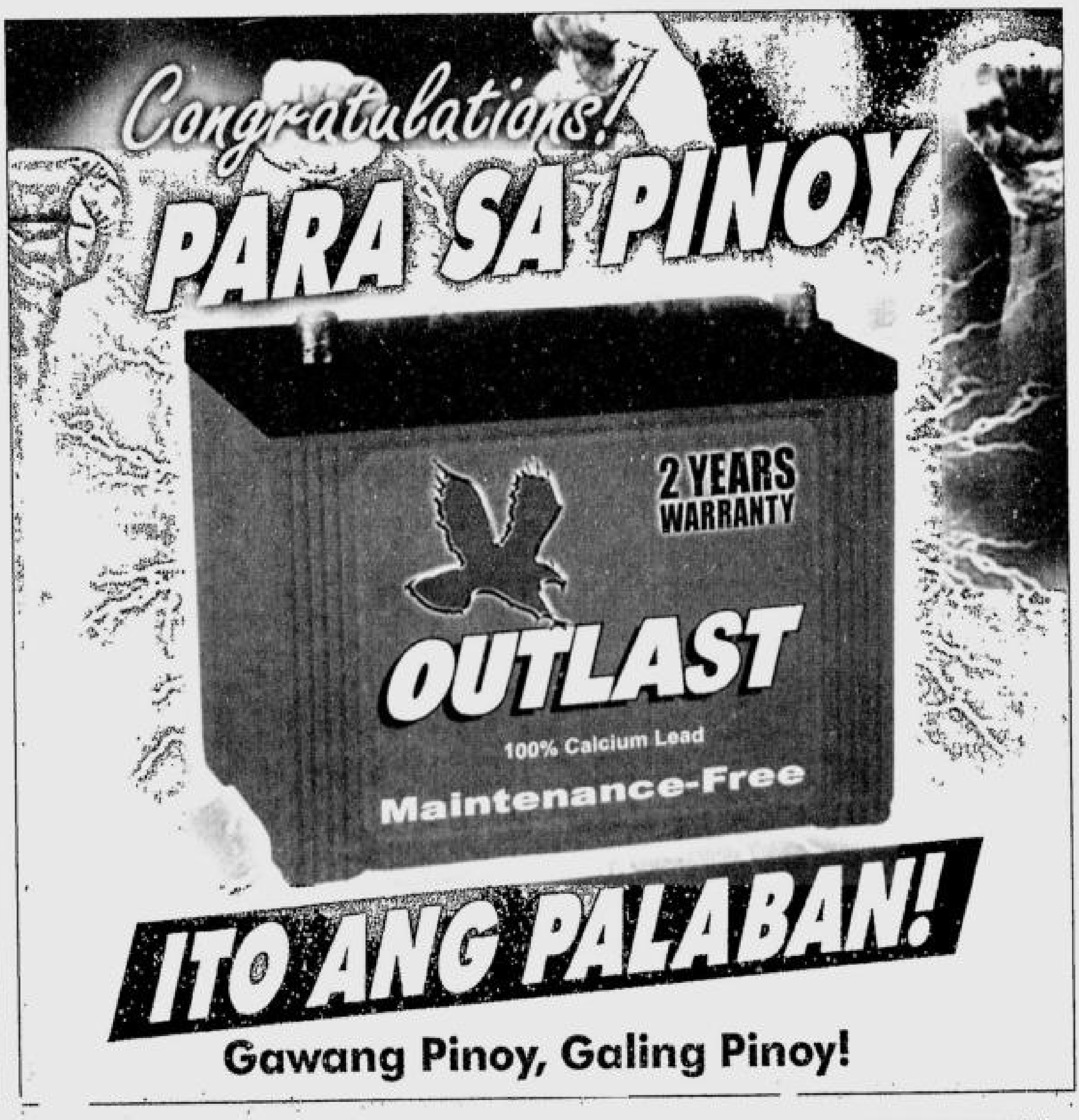

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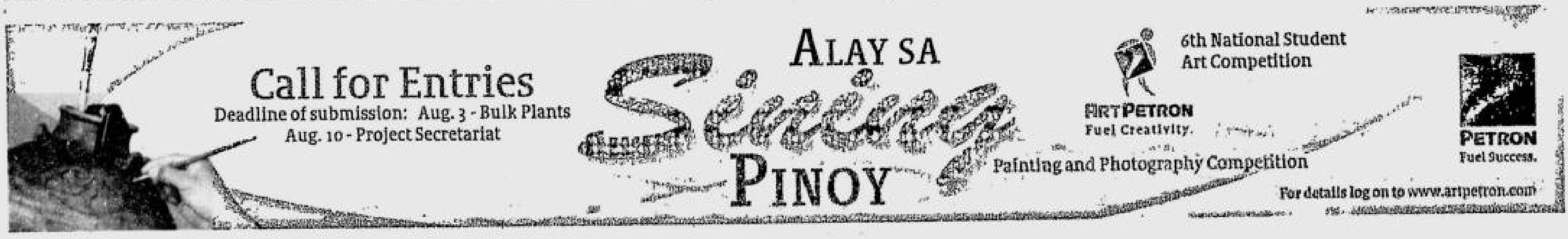

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No knockout? Don't blame Manny Pacquiao

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NICK GIONGCO OF THE BULLETIN EXpressed amazement during yesterday's post-fight press conference at how Manny Pacquiao was able to recover and put up a tough, stylish stand despite having appeared sick and drained Saturday afternoon, a few hours before his showdown with Mexican Oscar Larios.

Maybe Giongco, a Team Pacquiao insider, had started to suspect burnout, which could be blamed on cramming after Pacquiao was left with a shorter, limited training period.

Feeling deprived, if not cheated, of a first-class Pacquiao performance, Giongco next asked trainer Freddie Roach at the head table how he would grade Pacquiao's stand against Larios on a scale of 10.

"Six," Roach blurted, without batting an eyelash.

* * *

That should mean Pacquiao delivered only a little over half of the hundred percent Roach had expected from him.

That should also mean Pacquiao was not fully fit.

If so, why was he able to survive a torrid follow-up offensive by Larios, launched against the ropes, after the Mexican had caught Pacquiao with a crackling left shot to the chin?

Roach was quick to explain that Pacquiao had disobeyed orders.

Pacman did not follow the fight plan.

The original plot was to dig in early and go for the kill, starting the first round, if possible.

The idea was to corner, clip and conquer Larios inside six rounds.

* * *

Pacquiao, however, deemed it wiser to pressure the foe only starting the seventh, when he decked Larios with a combination to the head.

That knockdown sent fans on their feet, but the second and final knockdown would come only in the 12th and final round.

Maybe Pacquiao did not have the full appetite to tear at Larios?

Explained Pacman: "You can't force a knockout, you must wait for it to come."

Of course, it was also easy to suspect that Pacquiao had to push for a knockout only in the 12th and final round because, at that point, he no longer had to conserve what little was left in his oxygen tank.

* * *

Pacquiao also refused to bare why he decided to disobey Roach.

He said he would rather keep the true reason to himself.

His fans were left wondering why it was a kinder Pacquiao they saw against Larios yesterday inside the festive Big Dome in Cubao.

The usually stormy warrior who loves to slash at his foe whirlwind-style, was breezy on the whole.

There was sporadic ferocity, but this was often tentative.

As could be expected, there were catcalls mainly from blood-thirsty fans who, after elevating Pacquiao to a superhero status, also placed bets on Pacquiao stopping Larios inside six.

* * *

Sorry, over-eager *amigos*, but Señor Pacquiao had decided to treat things inside the ring differently.

He emphasized on science, without having to totally shun sweet savagery.

He refused to fall prey to his own fury. He did not dig in blindly for a knockout kill, unlike before.

In the first place, Pacquiao explained, he was in full control of the situation.- "*Mahirap baka matsambahan pa, kontrolado ko naman.*"

The result was, pardon this, one of finest all-around stands by a known slugger who has metamorphosed into a complete boxer.

* * *

Pacquiao may no longer be the masterpiece Roach had described him to be against Larios.

But yesterday clearly revealed that Pacquiao is still a work in progress, one who could do a lot better than just maim and flatten foes with his axe-like fists.

He's slowly but surely moving into that artful plain made truly respectable by ring craftsmen like Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard.

The best is yet to come, and Pacquiao need not always answer a call for blood.

Knights ride out for 2nd win vs Stags

LETRAN GUNS FOR THE LEAD AGAINST San Sebastian even as San Beda and St. Benilde try to move up in the standings of the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

STANDINGS	W	L
PCU	2	1
Letran	1	0
St. Benilde	1	1
Perpetual	1	1
Mapua	1	1
San Beda	1	1
SSC-R	1	2
Jose Rizal	0	1

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
12 noon—SSC-R vs. CSJL (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—SBC vs. CSB (Srs/Jrs)

The defending champion Knights seek a second straight win at 2 p.m. against the Stags with a complete lineup as Aaron Aban rejoins Letran after missing the first game due to a hurting left wrist.

That is bad news for the Stags who are smarting from a 74-72 loss to Philippine Christian University last Friday which boosted the Dolphins on top with a 2-1 record.

St. Benilde and San Beda clash at 4 p.m. with the winner also improving to 2-1.

The Caloy Garcia-mentored Blazers seemed to have recovered after a 65-44 loss to the Knights in the inaugurals, hitting 11 of their 20 three-point attempts in nipping Perpetual Help, 79-76, last Friday.

The Red Lions will lean on sensational rookie Pong Escobal and Nigerian Samuel Ekwe.

Escobal, a hotshot from Holy Cross of Davao, and the 6-foot-8 Ekwe have been averaging in double figures the past two games and their partnership could spell trouble for St. Benilde.

Slotman Gee Layug, guard Kris Robles and forward William Johnston will form the offensive core of the Blazers. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Coseteng nails Touring Car sweep

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—ALL IT TOOK WAS A good start for defending champion Jody Coseteng of San Mig Coffee to pull another sweep yesterday in the Group 1 division of the third leg of the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Louis Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA actually started first on the grid after posting the fastest time of 1 minute and 51.991 seconds in the trials.

But he lost control of his car and slammed into the tire barrier at the start of the morning race, paving the way for Coseteng to wrest the lead and keep it for good.

Coseteng finished the 12-lap race in 20 minutes and 56.641 seconds as he widened his lead to 84 points in this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP).

Kookie Ramirez, also of Petron Ultron-SRA, who now has 76 points in the series, was found underweight during the scrutineering, thus averting a showdown with Coseteng.

But he made an impressive rally and set a fastest lap time of 1:52.950 to move up to second overall in the third lap.

But Coseteng was beyond recall and Ramirez contented himself with a runner-up finish, clocking 21:03.949 or 7.308 seconds behind.

Don Pastor of Bioactiv Team TEC checked in third while Renan Morales and Dominic Bon wound up fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the afternoon race, Coseteng quickly pulled ahead and stormed away to complete his second sweep with a total time of 20:40.738.

Kookie Ramirez took over second place in the fifth lap and stayed there for good. He went on to post the day's fastest lap of 1:51.952.

Pastor again finished third while Mike Potenciano of MP Turbowound up fourth.

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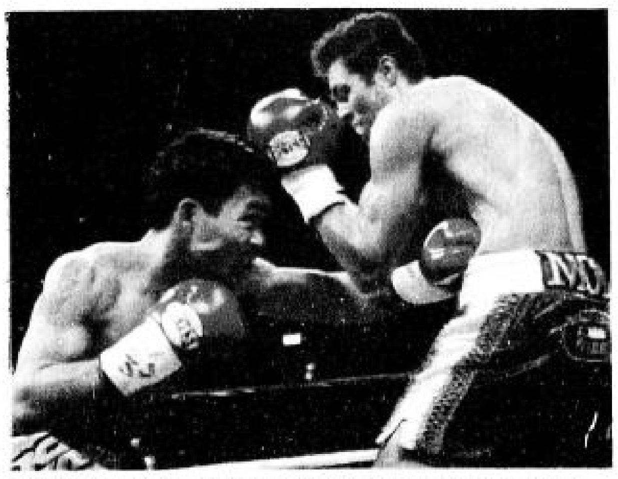
* See Flyers for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1934 Series of 2006

Amonsot, 3 other locals punish Mexican rivals

By Salven L. Lagumbay,
Contributor



MANNY Pacquiao, pressing his body attack, lands a left to Oscar Larios' midsection in the fifth round. EDWIN BACASMAS

CZAR AMONSOT AND THREE other local fighters gave Philippine boxing more reasons to celebrate Manny Pacquiao's big win over Mexican Oscar Larios yesterday.

The four Filipinos in the undercard all pulled through against their respective Mexican rivals to set up a sweep for the hosts in what was billed as the Mano-A-Mano Filipinas Contra Mexico showdown capped by the Pacquiao-Larios clash at the Araneta Coliseum.

Amonsot, the reigning WBO Asia Pacific super featherweight champ, bucked a slow start to prevail by unanimous decision over gutsy Mexican Silverio Ortiz in the 10-round main supporting event.

The fighter from Tagbilaran City, who was almost pulled out of the card due to a fever that slowed him down in training, caught Ortiz with several wicked jabs and uppercuts.

The judges favored Amonsot, a last-minute replacement for Randy Suico, with scores of 98-92, 99-91, and 100-91.

"I was just trying to fight a smart fight, and did not allow him to impose his fighting style on me," said Amonsot in Cebuano after the fight.

Philippine bantamweight champ Michael Domingo, also a late substitute for the popular Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, also shone with a seventh-round stoppage of Mexican Alejandro Felix Montiel.

Domingo scored a knockdown in the first round with a big right, and continued to dominate until the bout was stopped at 1:04 of the seventh following several unanswered shots by the winner.

Former WBC superfly champ Gerry Peñalosa and Jimrex Jaca won in contrasting fashions.

Peñalosa decisioned a tough Tomas Rojas, bucking a cut on his left eyelid. The judges saw him winning at 98-92, 96-93 and 98-92.

Jaca prevailed on a seventh-round technical decision over Hector Marquez after the fight was halted at 2:08 of the round with Jaca bleeding profusely from an old left eye wound following a collision of heads in the first round.

All three judges had Jaca ahead 60-53 when the fight was stopped.

Ex-OPBF lightweight champ Dennis Laurente scored a unanimous decision win over Russian Rustam Nugaev, who is a regular sparmate of Pacquiao.

In other bouts, Jerope Mercado decisioned Glenn Porras of Kidapawan City; Jundy Maraon and Ernel Fontanilla fought to a technical draw; Dodie Boy Agrabio upset Roel Laguna with a split verdict; while Richie Mepranum and Efren Huesca figured in a majority draw.

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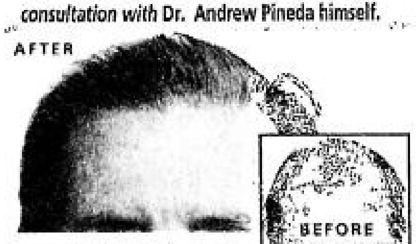

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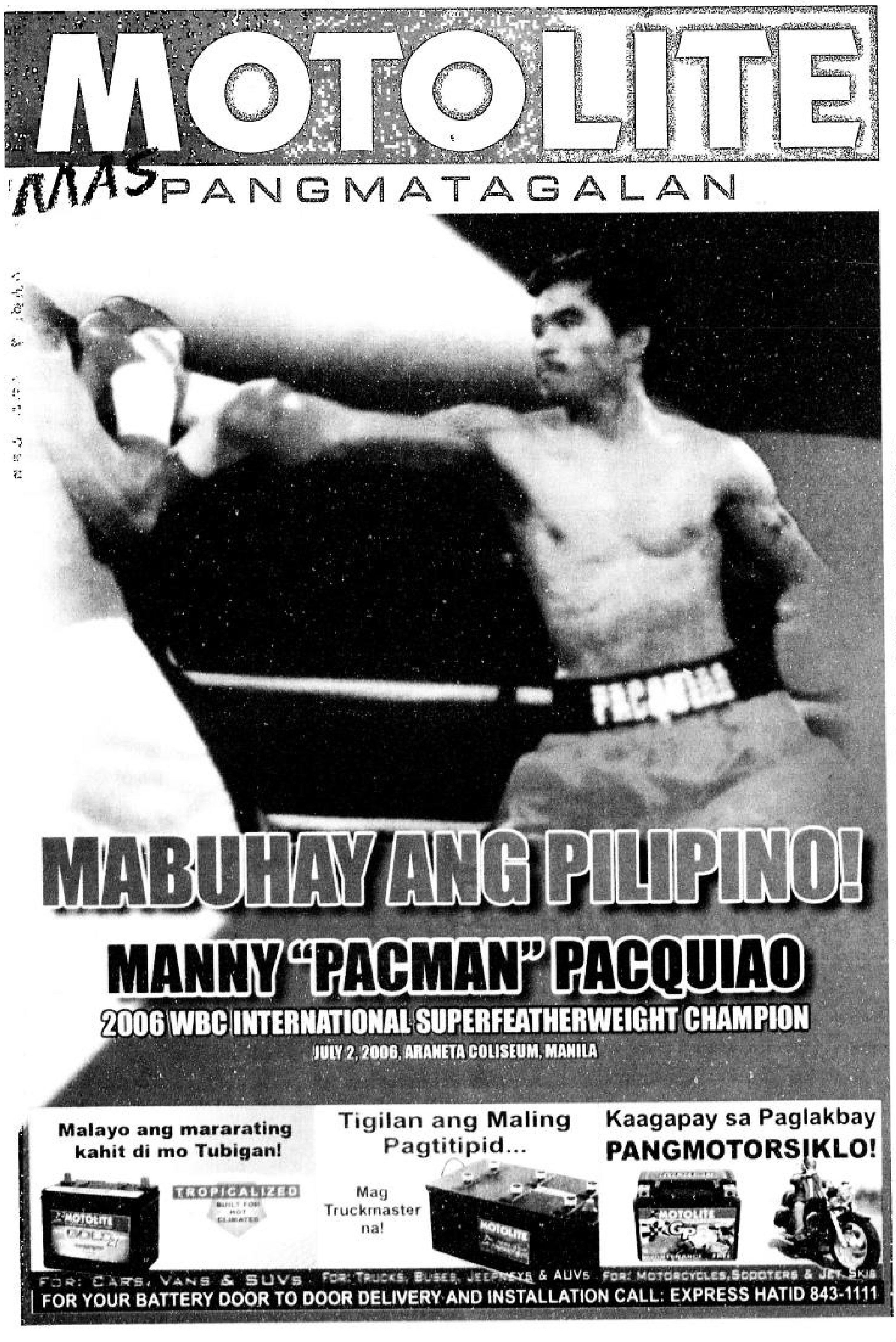
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Activism *n.* State of being vocal about personal beliefs and taking action where change is seen fit

Animalism *n.* State wherein people act like animals

Autism *n.* The state of having your own world

Capitalism *n.* An inclination to start a business despite the lack of money

Carism *n.* An extreme state of infatuation wherein cars are treated like human beings

Chauvinism *n.* Men's belief that they should always COME first

Chenelism *n.* A state wherein people use the words "chenes" and "chenelin" to replace nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs; often confused with chuvanism

Faithism *n.* Having well-founded beliefs in faith, as well as questions to affirm them

Favoritism *n.* A treatment given to exalt or glorify one item from a fixed set or grouping

Feminism *n.* A belief that the female species is equal and as strong as its male counterpart

Garylism n. State wherein old men find their ultimate pleasure in telling green jokes to younger women; see D.O.M.

Gayism *n.* Being proud and happy of one's sexual preference

Holyism *n.* A strong belief in divine intervention and that everything we do and choose to do is manifested through God's "signs"

Minimalism *n.* A belief that life should be kept simple and unadulterated

Miro-ism *n.* *A state wherein one inspires creativity through free expression, dynamism, and the arts*

Monogamism *n.* Sticking to just one lifetime partner through and through

Mysticism *n.* A belief you don't know

Narcissism *n.* A belief that it's the pleasure of other people to meet them

Optimism *n.* A belief that there is always a positive side to every situation

what's your ism?

ISM n. the essence of a person; a personal belief and conviction; a distinct quality in everyone

Chuvanism *n.* A state wherein people can't express themselves without using the word "chuva" in their sentences

Colonialism *n.* A strong belief in anything that is not locally made

Confusionism *n.* A state wherein one has the habit of asking highly philosophical questions

Deauville-ism *n.* *A refreshed state wherein one inspires beauty through purity, innocence, and freshness*

Digitalism *n.* An obsession with digital technology and its corresponding apparatuses

Exaggerism *n.* A state wherein one tends to respond extraordinarily to ordinary questions or situations

Exhibitionism *n.* A belief in doing things for a good cause...like giving a free show

Huit-ism *n.* *A state wherein men of power and confidence find a renewed passion for living*

Linearism *n.* Possessing rigid personalities and a one-track mind

LSSism *n.* A habit of humming or singing songs that leave a residual effect in the listener's head called "Last Song Syndrome"

Machoism *n.* Men's pride in showing off their own muscles, no matter how underdeveloped they are

Masochism *n.* State wherein one discovers how much love hurts... real good

Materialism *n.* A belief that great happiness is found in material things

Maximalism *n.* A belief that living a full life means having everything in excess

Mechanism *n.* A belief that there is a machine for every task

Patriotism *n.* A strong conviction to love the country you serve under, even if it doesn't love you back.

Pessimism *n.* Being positive that nothing will go right

Sadism *n.* Finding pleasure in putting other people through painful situations

Skinnyism *n.* An obsession with achieving a waif figure

Sosyalism *n.* A state wherein one finds happiness in going out and socializing with people

Superiorism *n.* A state wherein people place themselves above others in social class and consider themselves better than everyone else

Vanityism *n.* A belief that achieving one's ultimate state of beauty is worth any cost

Virginism *n.* A conviction to really stay a virgin until after marriage; usually possessed by convent-bred schoolgirls

Zidane produces a masterpiece against the masters

FRANKFURT, GERMANY—ZINEDINE Zidane is now one game away from the World Cup final and the end of his competitive soccer career.

The aging playmaker is not ready to retire just yet, if Saturday's masterful performance is anything to go by.

"We're in the semifinals. We're really happy and we're going to try and get that place in the final," Zidane said. "We don't want to stop here."

Zidane, aged 34, produced a stunning performance to again punish Brazil, just like he did eight years ago when he headed two goals to lead Les Bleus to its first World Cup title.

"We had to produce a massive performance and that's what we've done," Zidane said. "What was most important was to keep going physically. Once again, we deserved our victory."

. His dangerous curling free-kick enabled Thierry Henry to fire in France's winner from close range in the 57th minute.

After France's quarterfinal loss to Greece at the 2004 European Championships, Zidane bowed out from international soccer only to return a year later for one last crack at the World Cup.

Zidane will retire for good either after the semifinal against Portugal or the final. His mind is firmly fixed on the July 9 final.

Sidney Govou, who watched Zidane's wonderful performance from the bench until he came on as a late substitute, sat back and enjoyed the show.

"As soon as he touched the ball tonight I knew he was going to have one of those matches," Govou said about Zidane. "It's not really surprising when you consider he's one of the top players in the world."

• FIFA WORLD CUP ON SPORTSPLUS

7 a.m.—England vs. Portugal (replay tomorrow @ 12 m.n.)

7 p.m.—Brazil vs. France (replay tomorrow @ 4 p.m.)

France boots out Brazil

Forges semifinal date vs England-beater Portugal

BERLIN—BRAZIL WAS dumped out of the World Cup on Saturday, a Thierry Henry goal giving France a 1-0 quarterfinal victory over the defending champion.

France faces a semifinal with Portugal, which triumphed, 3-1, over England in a penalty shootout after a goalless 120 minutes. England played most of the second half and all of extra time with 10 men after striker Wayne Rooney was sent off.

France, inspired by captain Zinedine Zidane who is retiring after this World Cup, outplayed the champions in Frankfurt.

Zidane floated a deep free kick from the left into the Brazilian penalty area after 57 minutes and striker Henry arrived unmarked at the far post to score.

"We don't want to stop now. This is so beautiful, we want it to carry on," said Zidane, 34.

In Paris, hordes of French fans descended on the Champs Elysees shouting "We have won! We have won!"

The victory completed a memorable World Cup double for France, as they also beat Brazil in the 1998 final.

Despite boasting a dazzling array of top Europe-based players, five-time champions Brazil never reached their full potential in Germany.

FRANCE'S Thierry Henry (right) scores his side's first goal as Brazil goalkeeper Dida fails to make a save. AP

"We didn't think we would leave before the final but we have to face it," said Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

"France played very well, they were more patient and their victory was a deserved one," he added. "We had talented players, we worked hard but there was something missing."

Brazil's departure means the tournament will have no South American side in the last four for the first time since 1982.

Germany and Italy contest the first semifinal in Dortmund on Tuesday while France plays Portugal in Munich on Wednesday.

Portugal is the only team in the semifinals not to have won the World Cup.

Goalkeeper Ricardo was the hero of their win in Gelsenkirchen, saving three spot-kicks—a record for a World Cup shootout—from England midfielders Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard and substitute Jamie Carragher. *Reuters*

Beckham surrenders English captaincy

BUHLERTAL—DAVID BECKHAM RESIGNED as England captain here Sunday following his side's World Cup quarterfinal exit to Portugal.

Beckham was close to tears as he read from a prepared statement at England's training camp in southern Germany to confirm his decision to step down.

BECKHAM AP

He still hopes to continue as a player for England, but not as captain.

"On Nov. 15, 2000 Peter Taylor gave me the greatest honor of my career in making me the captain of England, fulfilling me childhood dream," said the Real Madrid star.

"Now, almost six years later, after being captain for 58 of my 95 caps, I feel the time is right to pass on the armband as we enter in a new era under Steve McClaren."

"It has been an honor and a privilege to have captained our country and I want to stress that I wish to continue to play for England and look forward to helping both the new captain and Steve McClaren in any way I can."

Figures compiled by Fifa on the World Cup website said Beckham has won 94 caps. *AFP*

Tearful Agassi, other US stars tumble out

AGASSI AP

RODDICK REUTERS

WILLIAMS AFP

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—FIRST, A TEARFUL Andre Agassi bowed out of Wimbledon for the final time.

Then, defending women's champion Venus Williams departed. Two-time finalist Andy Roddick soon joined them as light faded on Centre Court in a stunning day of upsets Saturday at the All England Club.

By the end of the first week, only one American was left in the men's and women's singles at Wimbledon—Shenay Perry, who is ranked 62nd and has advanced to the fourth round.

Playing in his 14th Wimbledon before retirement later this year, the 36-year-old Agassi couldn't keep up with the relentless power of 20-year-old Rafael Nadal and fell, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-4.

In a bigger surprise, three-time champion Williams fell to Jelena Jankovic of Serbia, 7-6 (8), 4-6, 6-4. With sister Serena out injured, there will be no Williams in the Wimbledon final for the first time since 1999. The sisters have won five of the last six titles.

"It definitely feels really weird," Venus said.

Finally, third-seeded Roddick—runner-up the last two years to Roger Federer—was dumped in straight sets by Britain's Andy Murray, 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-4.

Roddick served 21 aces but was outplayed by Murray, a 19-year-old Scotsman who has replaced Tim Henman as Britain's best hope of a first homegrown champion since Fred Perry in 1936.

Murray saved 11 of 12 break points and converted three out of 12 break points against Roddick. Murray also had 35 groundstroke winners, nearly twice as many as Roddick.

Roddick's ouster means no US men have reached the fourth round for only the second time since 1922. The other time was in 2002. American men are used to struggling on clay at the French Open, but not on the grass at Wimbledon.

"It is a lot more surprising, disappointing when it is here, a place that we've all had a lot of success," Roddick said.

The defeat continued Roddick's slide since reaching last year's Wimbledon final. He lost in the first round of the US Open, the fourth round in Australia and retired with an ankle injury in the first round of the French.

"There's just that intangible quality right now, that edge that's not there," he said. "That's what I'm searching for."

Murray, meanwhile, is enjoying his first trip to the fourth round of a Grand Slam.

"I'm not used to being around the locker room when there's only 16 people left," he said. "It's much quieter."

For one last time, Agassi stood in the middle of the court after the match and blew kisses and bowed to all corners of the arena. Then, in a break with Wimbledon tradition, he addressed the crowd by microphone to say goodbye.

"It's been a lot of incredible years here," Agassi said, wiping away tears. "I'll never be able to repay you for how you've embraced me over the years and I thank you for that."

Then Agassi took his bag, stopped to sign a few autographs and gave a final wave as he walked off the most famous court in tennis.

Among those in the crowd was his wife, Steffi Graf, a seven-time Wimbledon champion who sat in the Royal Box along with other tournament winners and sports champions.

"It's been a privilege to be out there again for one last time," Agassi said. *AP*

SHARAPOVA: Marching on AP

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ACE LENSMAN DE LEON 'SPARS' WITH PACQUIAO

After putting behind his cameras lens the likes of Sharon Cunetá, Kris Aquino, Regine Velasquez, Maricel Soriano, Cesar Montano and a host of other luminaries in show biz, society and politics, ace photographer Jun de Leon thought he had his fill of celebrity.

But that was before de Leon received an on-location assignment from San Miguel Corporation to capture in pictures Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, before and during the Pac Man's much-awaited title fight against Mexican Oscar "Chololo" Larrios at the Big Dome. Through the sponsorship of San Miguel Corporation, Jun packed his camera bags last month for the Pacquiao training camp in Los Angeles, California to photograph the "People's Champion" in training as well as capture that kind of stuff winners are made of.

These very exclusive, never-before-seen photos will be featured in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on July 3, day after the fight - a rarity in local of photo journalism. Plans are also afoot to mount an exhibit of these pictures.

"Ibang klase talaga si Manny," Jun relates, noting how his entrance in a busy public place like a restaurant would make the whole room quiet and pay heed to his presence. "It gives me goose bumps, feeling so proud that now a Filipino is able to do that," de Leon says.

With a reputation for being a perfectionist and a stickler to schedules, Jun got a dose of his own medicine following Manny in a straight eight-day sojourn of the boxer's training regimen. For one Pacquiao starts his day in a 5 a.m., two-hour run of the hills of L.A. which means de Leon had to wake up at least an hour earlier to prepare his camera, lenses and photographer's thingamajigs.

Obviously, the photographer with, or even without his gear, can't keep up with Pacquiao's killer pace on the road. Poor Jun had to tie himself up to the car just to capture the precise angle of Manny on his daily roadwork.

And there's the food. After a few days of partaking of Pacquiao's spartan breakfast of bananas and nilagang baka (tough litid and all purportedly to add exercise Pacquiao's jaws), Jun lamented in jest: "Manny, pakainin mo naman kami nang maayos!"

But the whole photo shoot was all worth it, Jun concludes. To this day he continues to take photos of Manny whose management company MP Promotions has designated de Leon as the official photographer of Pacquiao. In fact, in the Pacquiao-Larios fight this Sunday, Jun will be the only photographer who will be allowed to go up the ring.

American riders start strong at Tour de France

STRASBOURG, FRANCE—AMERICAN RIDERS made a strong start to the post-Lance Armstrong era Saturday at the Tour de France, cycling's premier race blown wide open a day before by the expulsion of its top contenders in a doping scandal. George Hincapie lost by a split second in the opening time trial to big Norwegian sprinter Thor Hushovd, David Zabriskie placed third and Floyd Landis was ninth, making the United States the only country with three racers in the top 10. The Tour was still reeling from the previous day, when 1997 winner Jan Ullrich and Tour of Italy champion Ivan Basso were among nine riders sent home for suspected doping. It was the biggest drugs scandal to hit the sport in years, perhaps ever. Hincapie, Landis and Levi Leipheimer, another American who was 36th in Saturday's race against the clock over 7.1 kilometers (4.4 miles), find their chances of succeeding Armstrong enhanced now that the top four runners-up from last year—Basso, Ullrich, Francisco Mancebo and Alexandre Vinokourov—are out. Hincapie, long Armstrong's loyal lieutenant who rode with him on all of his record seven straight victories, now finds himself dreaming of a Tour title of his own. *AP*

Benitez-Alvarez Shell karting rivalry moves to Boomland

THE RIVALRY BETWEEN TOP JUNIOR KARTERS Javi Benitez of Jet Racing and John Alvarez of the Cebu Racing Group moves up a notch higher as the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series moves to the Boomland Kart Track at the CCP Complex this Sunday.

After conspiring to give the Philippines the Asian Karting Junior ROK crown last month, Benitez and Alvarez part ways again, this time with Benitez gunning for a second win following his triumph in the Asian karting event.

Benitez leads the hunt for the Junior ROK plum of this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines and sponsored by Shell Helix, San Miguel Corp., Denso Iridium Power, Honda Phils. Eastway Company, Aeromed Ambulance Transport and official tires Yokohama Kart Tires.

Alvarez, who pivoted Benitez' title-clinching feat in the Asian race by distracting foreign rivals, topped the previous leg at the Carmona Circuit Phils. track.

Expected to challenge Benitez and Alvarez are Tomas Cabili, Roby Benito, Juha Turalba and Paco Rodriguez.

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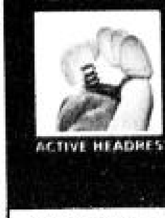
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FIFA WORLD CUP

2006 RIO RANKED HIGHEST IN SUBCOMPACT CATEGORY
by J.D. Power and Associates

The 2006 Kia Rio/Rio5 ranked highest for initial quality in the sub-compact category according to the J.D. Power and Associates 2006 Initial Quality Study℠ (IQS). The annual report, released today, measures 217 vehicle attributes across eight categories, including driving experience, engine and transmission, and a broad range of quality problem symptoms reported by vehicle owners.

"Rio is a class-leading subcompact vehicle and an excellent example of Kia's continued dedication to offering consumers an affordable vehicle without sacrificing quality," said Len Hunt, executive vice president and COO of Kia Motors America. "We're extremely pleased that the automotive industry and consumers alike recognize Rio's high level of excellence."

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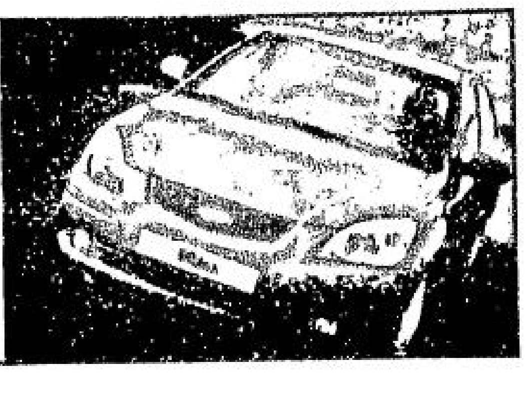

lang!
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PARACETAMOL
ALAXAN
TABLET

Alaxan signs up The Dawn. Standing L-R: JB Leonor, The Dawn; Christina Jacinto, Alaxan Associate Product Manager; Francis Reyes, The Dawn; Buddy Zabala, The Dawn. Seated L-R: Trina Ludovice, Unilab Consumer Health Somatics Category Head; Jett Pangan, The Dawn; Jun Vivar, Unilab Consumer Health Corporate Vice President; Fran Ribaño, The Dawn manager; Cheche Kau, Alaxan Product Manager.

The Dawn does Alaxan in new Sipag Campaign

Alaxan, the country's No. 1 pain killer, has tapped the talents of no less than The Dawn, arguably the country's most popular rock band during the 80's and one of its most enduring, to render a new anthem advocating the value of *sipag* or hard work as the key to success. The song was recently introduced on the airwaves as the vehicle to carry Alaxan's new campaign advocating *sipag* as embodied by the nation's now world-famous and most successful boxer to date, Manny Pacquiao. Inspiring and distinctly The Dawn in sound, the piece couldn't have been more timely, as this year marks the band's 20th anniversary. The song will thus have the honor of being part of The Dawn's commemorative album due out this July or August.

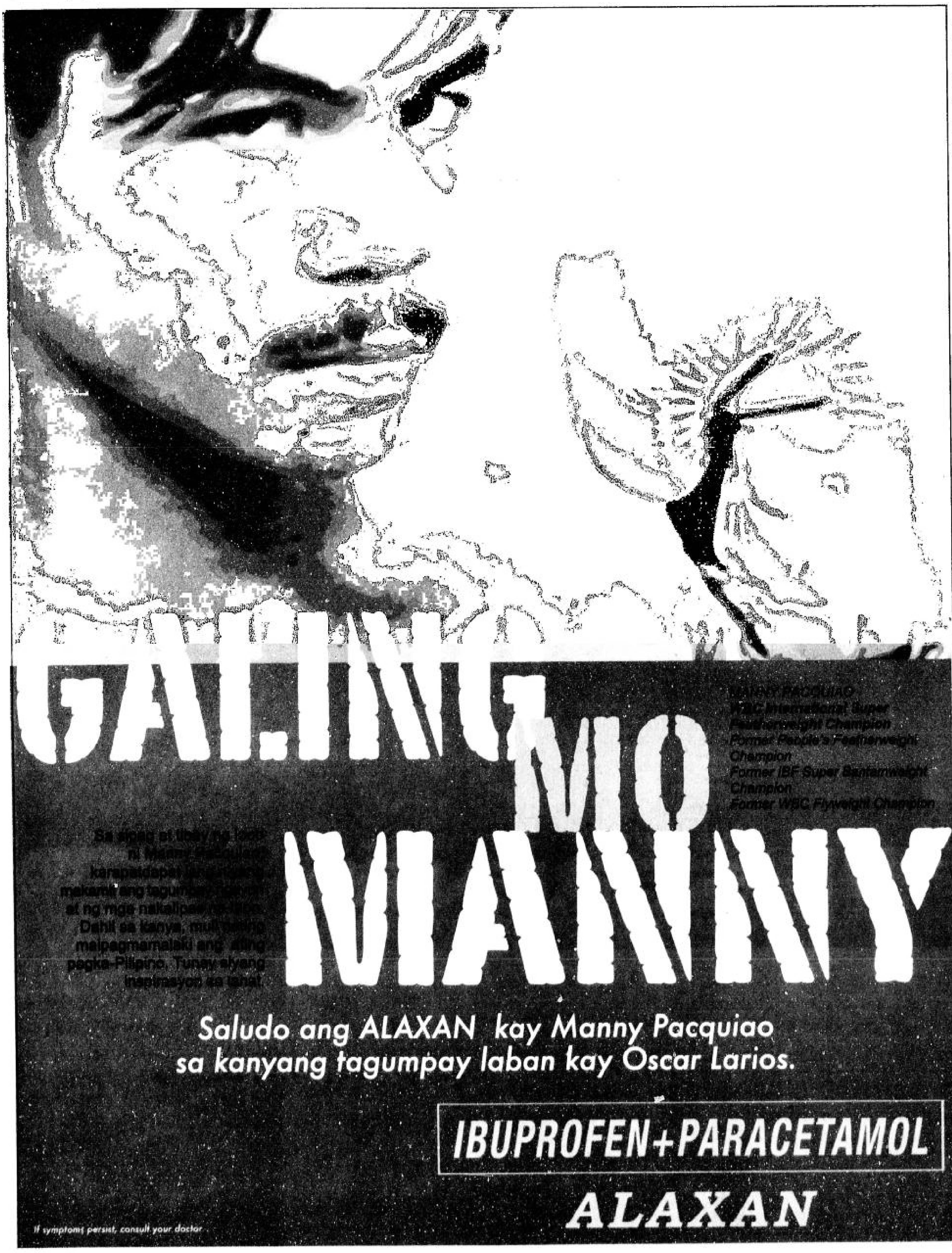
NOW ON ITS SECOND YEAR:

Alaxan's Alis-Aray sa Hanapbuhay

In its continuing effort to enlighten the working public on pain management, Alaxan has been conducting symposia and sponsoring medical missions to various industrial parks and offices all over the country. The response has thus far been very encouraging, and Alaxan hopes to reach out to even more areas and people in the future.

ALAXAN
ALIS ARAY
SA HANAPBUHAY
FREE BODY PAIN CONSULTATION

Alaxan's Alis-Aray symposia help workers know more about body pain.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MANNY PACQUIAO
WBC International Super Featherweight Champion
Former People's Featherweight Champion
Former IBF Super Bantamweight Champion
Former WBC Flyweight Champion
Sa sipag at tiyaga ng [illegible] ni Manny [illegible] karapatdapat [illegible] makamit ang tagum[illegible] at ng mga nakalipas [illegible] Dahil sa kanya, muli [illegible] maipagmamalaki ang ating pagka-Pilipino. Tunay siyang inspirasyon sa lahat.
Saludo ang ALAXAN kay Manny Pacquiao
sa kanyang tagumpay laban kay Oscar Larios.
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ALAXAN
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Alaxan Gel massage: A First at Fitness First

From June to August 2006, lucky health buffs at all 13 Fitness First branches in Metro Manila can now treat themselves to a relaxing chair massage free during Les Mills launches, Endurance Challenges and Members' Nights, courtesy of Alaxan Gel. Participants also get free product samples of Alaxan Gel so they can experience first-hand its non-greasy, non-smelly gel form and quick-acting, longer-lasting relief.

Alaxan FR into sports

Sports shops, that is. Alaxan FR Capsule kicks off a tie-up with leading athletic stores that entitles customers to free Alaxan FR items for a minimum single receipt purchase. The offer runs from July 10 to August 13, 2006 at all 33 Sportshouse International oulets, all 14 The Athlete's Foot branches and Planet Sports Rockwell.

Ambasa, Maningkil top GenSan Milo run

RACE winner Monaliza Ambasa (center) raises the hands of runner-up Vivian Avergonzado and third placer Raquel Velasco at the awards rites. With them are race director Rudy Biscocho (left), fourth placer Maritez dela Cruz (seated) and Milo sports events executive Pat Goc-ong.

GEN. SANTOS CITY—MONALISA AMBASA EMbellished her reputation as one of Mindanao's best runners yesterday with an easy victory in the eighth leg of the 30th National Milo Marathon.

As if in a hurry to watch illustrious townmate Manny Pacquiao's fight against Mexican Oscar Larios, the 23-year-old Ambasa, a part-time clerk, took the lead early and stormed to her fourth straight win.

She annexed her sixth title in the fabled event—counting her two victories in the Davao leg during her school days at the Rizal Memorial College in Davao City—with a career-best time of 1 hour 27 minutes and 9 seconds.

Second placer Vivian Avergonzado finished almost 15 minutes behind while Raquel Velasco settled for third in the race that started and wound up in the city's Oval Plaza.

"I'm in shape this time," said the 5-foot runner from Surallah, South Cotabato. She plans to train rigorously this time for the National Finals set in December in Manila.

Wilson Maningkil topped the men's side with a blistering run in the final five kilometers that relegated Rey Mondonedo to runner-up honors for the second straight year.

The second placer in last year's Tarlac leg, Maningkil trailed Mondonedo in the first 10 kilometers before making his move halfway through the grueling race.

Ambasa and Maningkil received P10,000 each from Milo sports executive Pat Goc-ong, who was assisted in the awards rites by race director Rudy Biscocho.

Mondonedo and Avergonzado pocketed P6,000 each while Alem Ceralvo took P4,000 for finishing third like Velasco in the event held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Powerbar and the Department of Tourism.

The top three finishers in both the men's and women's races earned outright slots in the finals.

John Brana ruled the 5K side over runner-up Anthony Tupas and third placer Jaman Makasaehe, while Marieth Delima topped the distaff side over Jullibee Gumera and Fe Concepcion.

Lady Archers post V-League crown sweep

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ON A DAY MANNY PACQUIAO COULD only win by decision, it was La Salle which scored a knockout.

A few kilometers away from the Big Dome, where the Filipino ring hero failed to deliver his KO promise against Mexican Oscar Larios, La Salle flashed its finest form yet, surviving a jarring first-set blow to down San Sebastian, 18-25, 27-25, 25-23, 25-20, yesterday and capture the Shakey's V-League championship.

The win gave the Lady Archers a 2-0 sweep of the title series and their third straight conference title before a big crowd at the Blue Eagle Gym in Katipunan, Quezon City.

Manilla Santos scored eight of her team-high 26 points in the fourth set for La Salle, which survived another explosive effort from the big-hitting Thai Jaroensri Bualee of San Sebastian through sheer patience and teamwork.

"We came here expecting to win easily but San Sebastian performed well and pushed us to outdo ourselves," said La Salle mentor Ramil de Jesus. "In the end, it was our big heart that won it for us."

The Lady Archers played with little urgency in the first set, which Bualee dominated as La Salle's own Thai import, Jindarat Kanchana, hardly created a ripple.

But Kanchana and Santos took charge of the offense while Desiree Hernandez, Erica Llaguno, Reiea Saet, Michelle Datuin and Shermain Penana provided solid support as La Salle tied the match after an extension.

Bualee, who scattered 34 points, 31 of them on attacks, boosted the Lady Stags to a 17-12 lead in the third set.

San Sebastian came within three points of clinching the set but the Lady Archers, trailing 18-22, outscored the suddenly erratic Lady Stags, 8-1, to take a 2-1 set advantage.

Kanchana won the set for La Salle with an emphatic spike to an open field before dropping to the floor in exhaustion.

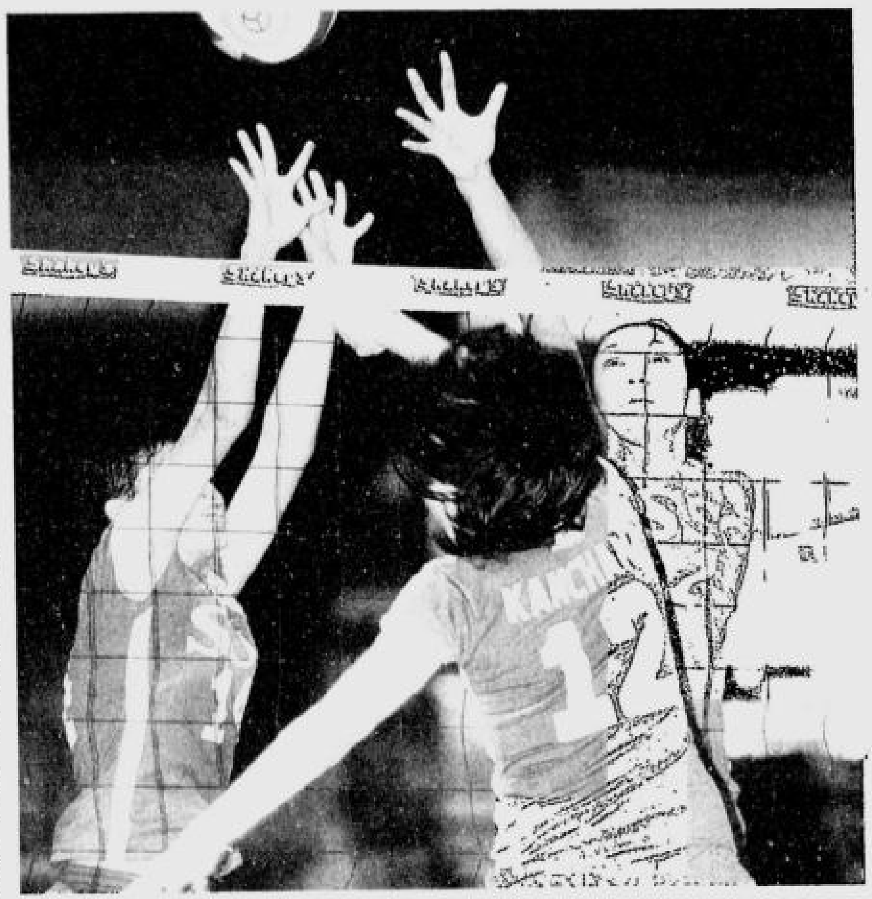
But the fourth set belonged to Santos—the Most Improved Player awardee—who struck hard from the left post on Saet's feeds.

La Salle grabbed a 22-17 lead before SSC clawed back with three straight points. But Bualee blew a serve, Kanchana came through with a block, and SSC's Jinni Mondejar ended it all with another spike.

Cherry Rose Macatangay, the 5-foot-11 Adamson star, ran away with the Most Valuable Player and Best Scorer awards.

La Salle had four players in the honor roll. Aside from Santos, skipper Desiree Hernandez took the Best Attacker plum, Reiea Saet the Best Setter award and Shermaine Penano the Best Receiver title.

Ateneo's Michelle Laborte was adjudged Best Blocker, Lyceum's Concon Legaspi Best Server and SSC Margarita Pepito Best Digger.


LA SALLE'S Thai reinforcement Kanchana Jindarat attacks the San Sebastian defense put up by Ma. Theresa Iratay (left) and Rysabelle Devanadera. PDI PHOTO

Meralco, Robinsons shuttlers gain semis

DEFENDING CHAMPION PHILIPpine Star thumped Accenture, 5-0, yesterday to advance to the semifinals of the P1 million JVC Open Badminton Championships' corporate division at the Glorietta Activity Center.

AB Leisure, Meralco and Robinson's Land also bagged slots in the Final Four after hammering separate foes with similar one-sided wins.

The AB Leisure shuttlers posted a 5-0 rout of Fortune Tobacco, while Meralco and Robinson's Land clinched their respective matches with Makati Medical Center and RCBC by sweeping their first three pairings.

The four teams dispute the finals berths on Thursday along with the semifinal round of the elite category in the event sponsored for the sixth straight year by top electronics firm JVC (Phils.), Inc.

Hideyuki Takato, president and CEO of the sponsoring JVC (Phils.), Inc., and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay made the ceremonial serves along with officials of the JVC Phils., including general manager Kazue Salud, chair Faustino Salud, marketing manager Rachel Bacsal, and director Dennis Salud and the Asuncion siblings Kennie and Kennevic.

Jhona Magnaye and Glenn Padpad kicked off the defending champion Starmen's campaign in the quarters with a 21-19, 21-16 victory over JP Lagman and Elaine de Claro of Accenture in the first mixed doubles event before Chester Cordero and Jopet Sison trounced the men's doubles tandem of Alvin Moreno and Jojo Gatchalian, 21-5, 21-13.

Poor form sends Paragua tumbling out of Top 100

PARAGUA: Still No. 1

MARK PARAGUA KEPT HIS "SUPER GM" STATUS but crashed out of the world's Top 100 in the July Elo ratings released by the World Chess Federation, Fide, yesterday.

The 22-year-old Paragua lost 13 Elo points due to his sub-par form in the 37th Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy, and dropped to No. 128—from 100th in June—in the world rankings with 2604.

Paragua manned the top board for the Philippine team that finished in 44th place, well below pre-tournament expectations. He scored 4.5 points in 11 games, winning twice, losing four times and drawing the rest of his matches.

Grandmaster Rogelio Antonio Jr., the top Filipino scorer in Turin with 7 points, gained 10.7 Elo points to raise his rating to 2550 and dislodge GM Eugene Torre at second spot in the rankings.

Torre, Asia's first GM, lost a point after the Olympiad and stood at 2543, still a fairly high rating despite his lack of international stints.

Rounding out the Top 10 were IM Rogelio Barcenilla 2503, IM Joseph Sanchez 2466, IM Oliver Dimakiling 2463, IM Idelfonso Datu 2457, IM Yves Rañola 2442, GM Nelson Mariano 2437 and IM Richard Bitoon 2433.

"*Bawi na lang ako sa susunod na* (I'll make up for it in the next) international tournament," said Paragua, the only Filipino to have breached the 2600 rating, the level commonly pegged in international chess circles as "super GM" territory. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Rip-off

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WHAT DOES PROFESSIONAL BOXING CONtribute to the community? While it is true that pro boxing is violent and dangerous, and that even the most rigid safety measures don't guarantee protection against death in the ring, still one can say that it does afford an economic opportunity for a certain number of people who are born to bitter poverty, people who are exploited because of educational deficits.

Pro boxing provides them with a way out. Manny Pacquiao, the most written-about athlete in the history of Philippine sports—and the richest—is a good example.

Still, not everything went dandy for some Filipino boxers (and their managers) who fell prey to the improprieties committed by sleazy promoters. Pacquiao and former world champion Luisito Espinosa are among the victims of these boxing rip-offs.

As most everybody knows, the impoverished Espinosa is still awaiting the full payment of his purse from the local promoters who staged his title fight in Mindanao more than a decade ago. For his part, Pacquiao had to go to court in New York to claim his rightful share from the proceeds of the pay-per-view deal from his former handler, the glib-tongued Murad Muhammad. And, there's more.

Longtime international promoter and manager Jun Sarreal said that one of his former boxers, world-ranked and Philippine junior lightweight champion Tony Juma-oas, and himself were themselves victims of unscrupulous promoters many years ago.

"Juma-oas and I were not paid our purses," recalled Sarreal, only son of the late boxing impressario Lope "Papa" Sarreal and brother-in-law of the great Flash Elorde. "As a result, I even had to shoulder the full payment of the purse due my boxer because the promoter (a certain Mr. Flores) did not settle his obligations with us."

Jun Sarreal also claimed there was no surety bond, a requirement imposed by the sport's ruling body, the Games and Amusements Board, to protect the boxers and managers in cases of non-payment by the fight promoters.

In another incident, this time in Caracas, Venezuela, Sarreal said former world flyweight champ Bernabe Villacampo also had to seek payment from another sleazy promoter, a certain Rafito Cedeño.

Boxing used to be a sport I loved. But I have virtually walked away from it in recent years because I have to follow my conscience. I honestly felt the boxers were being exploited and I wanted no part of it. After many years of covering fights and fighters, rubbing elbows with many of its luminaries, acting as a many-time local and international boxing judge, I felt I could no longer justify my association with the sport. I've had enough.

* * *

UST GOLDIES CELEBRATE: Due to space constraints, I apologize to my esteemed friend, former Philippine Olympic Committee president retired Col. Julian Malonso, and to the other surviving members of the 1946 UST Glowing Goldies for not being able to announce their diamond celebration scheduled yesterday at the Kamayan/Saisaki restaurant on EDSA. The University of Santo Tomas won the 1946 UAAP varsity basketball championship.

Among the members of the team were Dr. Jose Genato, elder brother of Olympian Antonio Genato; TRC Judge Felipe Tongco, Tito Eduque, Edward Dee, Demosthenes Nagtalon, Francisco Vestil, former Pampanga governor Francisco Nepomuceno, Antonio Castillejo, Ricardo Siajuat, Ricardo Pineda, Malonso, Ramoncito Campos and Antonio Martinez. The coach was the dean of Filipino coaches, Herminio "Herr" Silva while the moderator of athletics was a Spanish priest, Rev. Fr. Excelso Garcia, O.P., who translated the Roman version of the missal from Latin to Filipino, the first of its kind.

Santo Tomas defeated Far Eastern U to win the 1946 UAAP championship. FEU was led by Luis Tabuena, the Araneta brothers, Manolet and Marciano; Dr. Benjamin Cruz, who later transferred to UST to finish his medical course; Jose "Peping" Gochangco, Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan, Jose Tuason, Cesar Burgos, Rafael Dimalanta and Manuel Piñon. The coach was Prof. Jose Rocha, FEU director of physical education and grandfather of actor Niño Muhlach.

Third place went to National University led by former Makati City Mayor Nemesio Yabut, Rafael Roco, Oscar Tañedo, Eduardo Mesina and Dr. Angelino Sunga. NU was mentored by Celerino Paguia Sr., husband of Letty Jhocson.

SPORTSWATCH

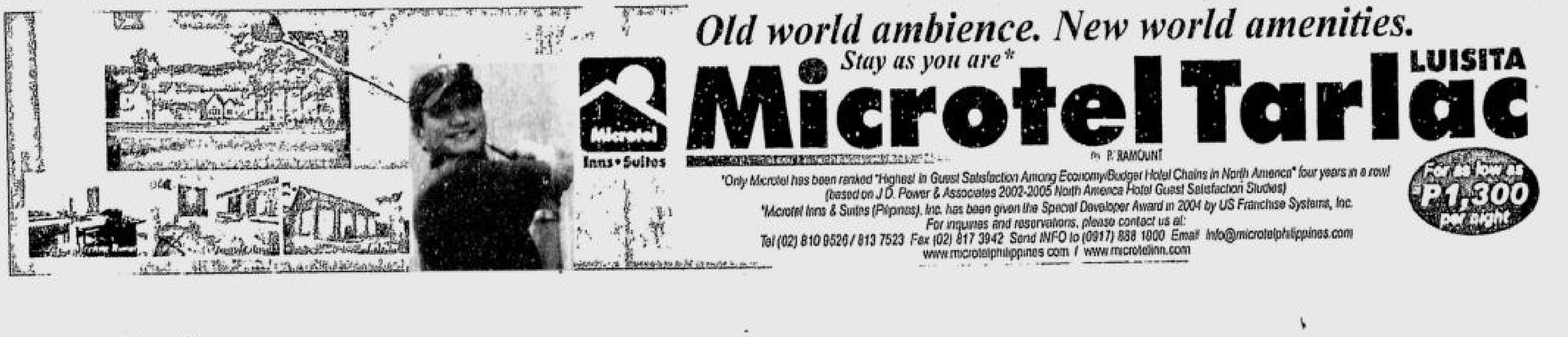
Makati 4-cocker under way

SIXTY-SEVEN FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN THE WINCHESTER GOLD 4-COCK Derby starting at 5 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum. Philip Menez, a member of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP), is hosting the event sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace. The elite list of participants include 2006 PCAP Cocker of the Year winners Richard Bates and Col. Nicetas Katigbak, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Tony Tan, Boy Royo, Pepito Ngo, Blandy Tolentino, Gold Cup group, Efren Canlas, Butchoy Olano, Lito Roque, Jun Pascual, William Co, Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and Boy Javier, among others. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

Roligon derby weigh-in today

THE WEIGH-IN OF GAME BIRDS SEEING ACTION IN THE P3.5 MILLION "Hatawan sa Tag-Ulan" 6-cock derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit will be held today from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Parañaque venue. Weight limits are set at a minimum of 1.8 kilograms and a maximum of 2.4 kg. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812. Derby action resumes at 5 p.m. tomorrow featuring the second round of eliminations. Host Rolly Ligon said cockers and breeders may still join the event by fielding their entries on Thursday. The semifinals and finals are scheduled on July 8 and 11, respectively.

CAGERS' PLANT TOUR: Participants in the Burlington Batang PBA are treated to an educational tour of the state-of-the-art Burlington socks factory in Makati City recently. Members of the Burlington All Stars-Caloocan, one of the 13 teams in the league, and their parents are shown inside the office of Burlington GM Ruddy Tan.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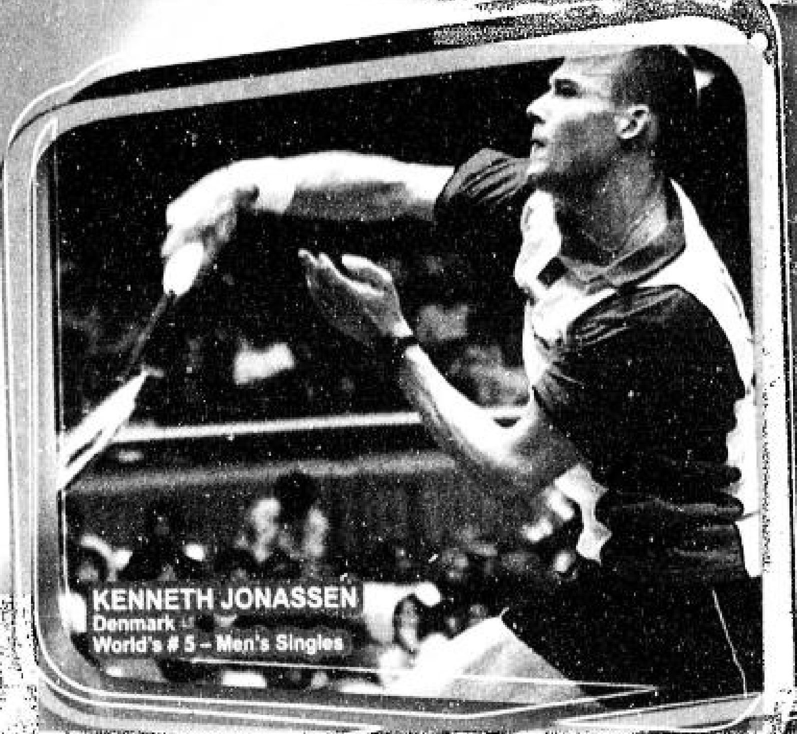

KENNETH JONASSEN
Denmark
World's # 5 – Men's Singles

ZHANG NING
China
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ROBERT VILLAR, (left), Little division grand winner, shares the moment with runner-up Christian Olog and host Sarah Geronimo

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

Little big winners

THE DIMINUTIVE aspirants on the ABS-CBN amateur singing contest "Little Big Star" proved that size didn't matter when it came to scaling musical heights.

The national grand finals were held on Wednesday and telecast Saturday.

In the Big division, crowd favorite and "Antoinette Taus" look-alike Angellie Urquico, 13, led the pack with a rendition of the Whitney Houston classic "Run to You." Runner-up was Krissha Viaje, 12, who sang "Through the Rain."

In the Little category, seven-year-old Robert Villar wowed the crowd with his interpretation of the Regine Velasquez showstopper "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw."

Robert's smile said it all when he was declared winner over closest rival Christian Olog, 9, who performed "Ikaw ang Lahat sa Akin."

The judges were comedienne Ai-Ai de las Alas, contest champs Mark Bautista and Erik Santos, Apo Hiking Society member Boboy Garrovillo and Star Records executive Jonathan Manalo

Quick to comfort the runners-up was host Sarah Geronimo, who was celebrating her debut on the show (her actual birthday is July 25).

As role models go, for Angellie and Robert, Sarah is a tough and tireless (read: hard-working) act to follow. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

INSIDE

▨ **Eva Cariño: I'm the original Annabelle Rama**/A2-3

▨ **1 more finalist dropped from Cinemalaya** /A2-6

▨ **Exclusive E-mail interview with Manhattan Transfer** /A2-7

▨ **PMPC Star Awards**/A2-8

ANGELIE URQUICO, right, is the Big division winner. Sarah hugs runner-up Krissha Viaje.

For very special 'critics'

A SPECIAL ADvance screening of the movie "United 93" was held recently for the families of the victims of 9/11's fourth and last hijacked plane—so that they might be the movie's first critics, said British director, writer and co-producer Paul Greengrass.

United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into a field in rural Pennsylvania. The passengers and crew had fought back, throwing off the hijackers and preventing the plane from hitting its target, the Capitol dome in Washington, D.C.

The movie opens on Wednesday in major cities around the world, including Manila.

"It was very sad," said Cathy Stefani after seeing the movie. Her daugher Nicole was among the 40 passengers. "But it pretty much portrayed the truth as we know it."

Another group of 90 victims' relatives attended the premiere held shortly after at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York

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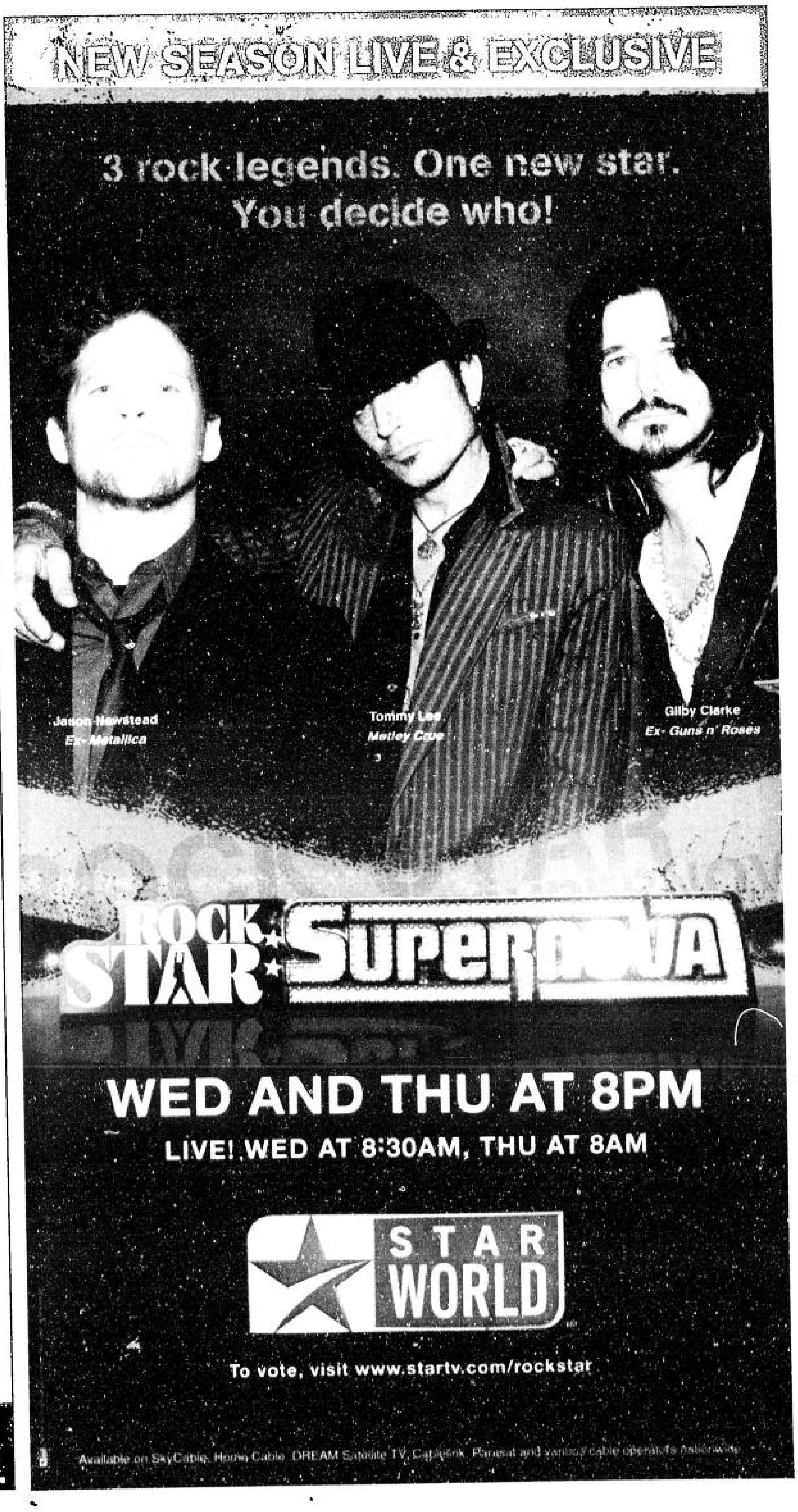

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3 rock legends. One new star. You decide who!
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Ex-Metallica
Tommy Lee
Motley Crue
Gilby Clarke
Ex- Guns n' Roses
ROCK STAR Supernova
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STAR WORLD
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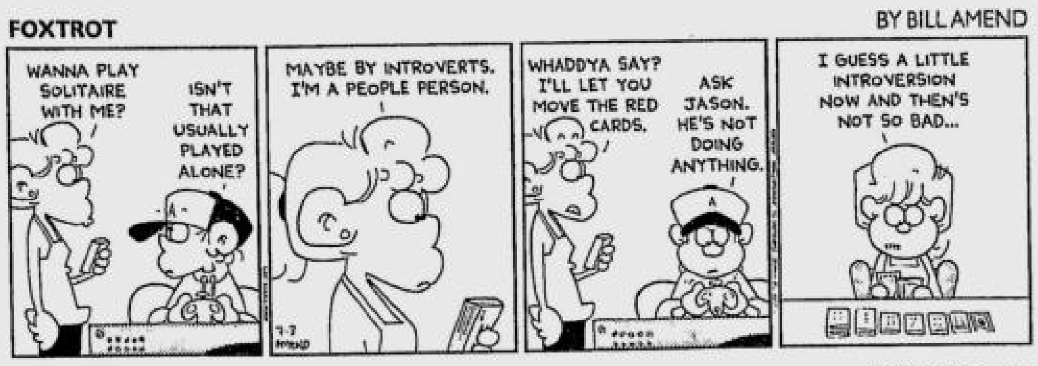
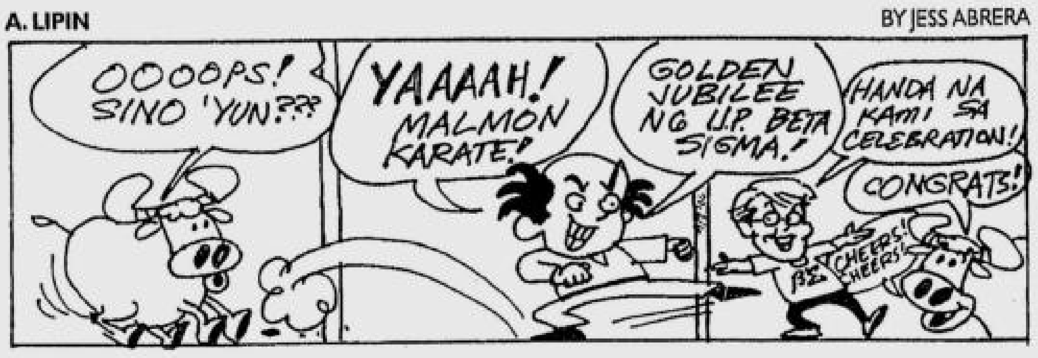
Available on SkyCable, Home Cable, DREAM Satellite TV, Cablelink, Parasat and various cable operators nationwide

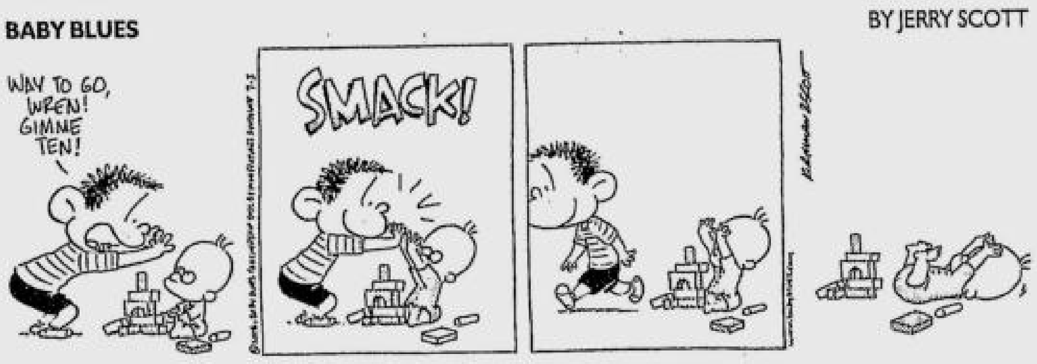
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


WANNA PLAY SOLITAIRE WITH ME?
ISN'T THAT USUALLY PLAYED ALONE?
MAYBE BY INTROVERTS. I'M A PEOPLE PERSON.
WHADDYA SAY? I'LL LET YOU MOVE THE RED CARDS.
ASK JASON. HE'S NOT DOING ANYTHING.
I GUESS A LITTLE INTROVERSION NOW AND THEN'S NOT SO BAD...

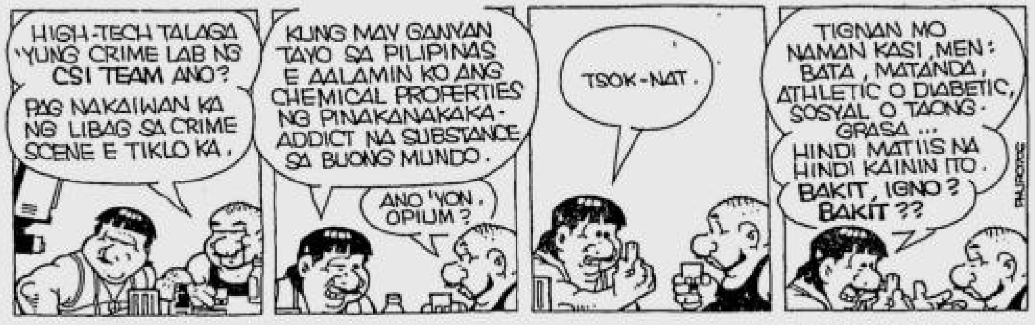
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


OOOOPS! SINO 'YUN???
YAAAAH! MALMON KARATE!
GOLDEN JUBILEE NG U.P. BETA SIGMA!
HANDA NA KAMI SA CELEBRATION!
CONGRATS!
CHEERS! CHEERS!

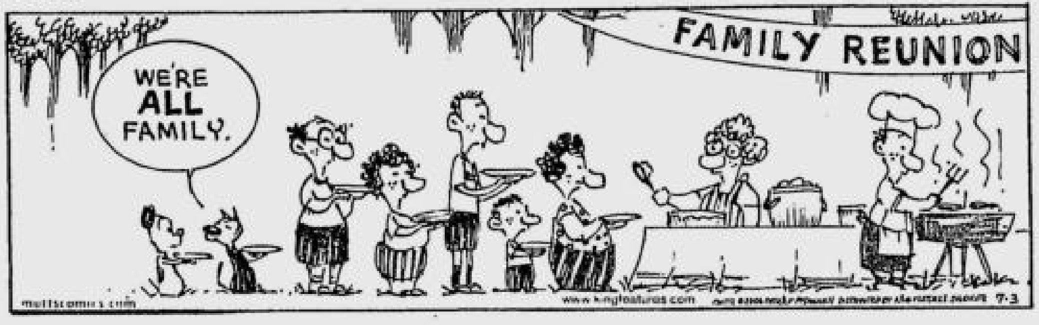
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WAY TO GO, WREN! GIMME TEN!
SMACK!

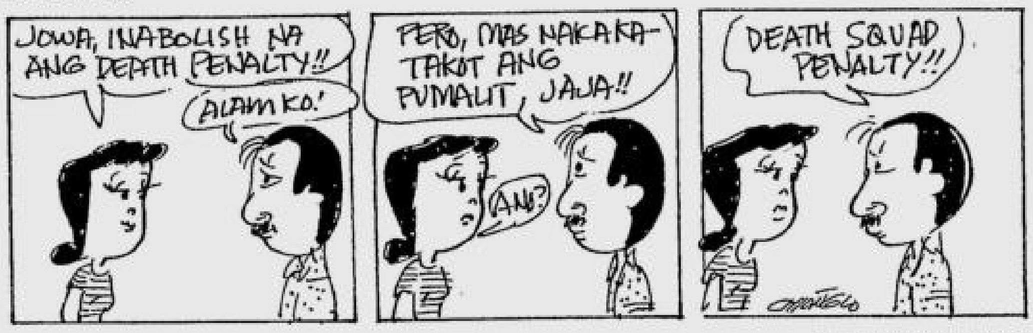
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


HIGH-TECH TALAGA 'YUNG CRIME LAB NG CSI TEAM ANO?
PAG NAKAIWAN KA NG LIBAG SA CRIME SCENE E TIKLO KA.
KUNG MAY GANYAN TAYO SA PILIPINAS E AALAMIN KO ANG CHEMICAL PROPERTIES NG PINAKANAKAKA-ADDICT NA SUBSTANCE SA BUONG MUNDO.
ANO 'YON, OPIUM?
TSOK-NAT.
TIGNAN MO NAMAN KASI, MEN: BATA, MATANDA, ATHLETIC O DIABETIC, SOSYAL O TAONG-GRASA... HINDI MATIIS NA HINDI KAININ ITO.
BAKIT, IGNO? BAKIT??

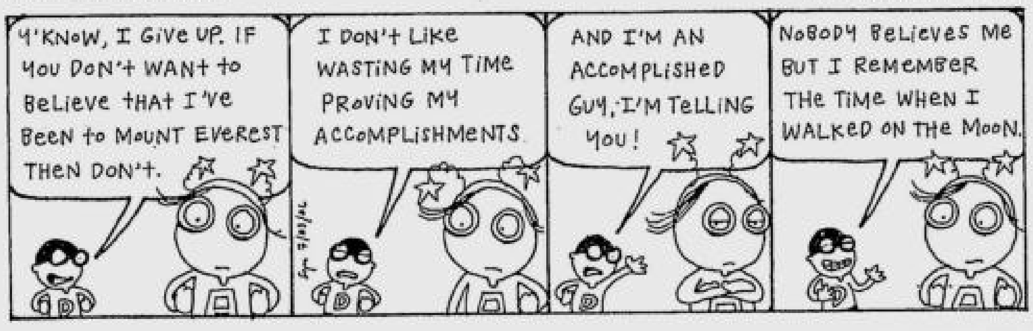
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FAMILY REUNION
WE'RE ALL FAMILY.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com

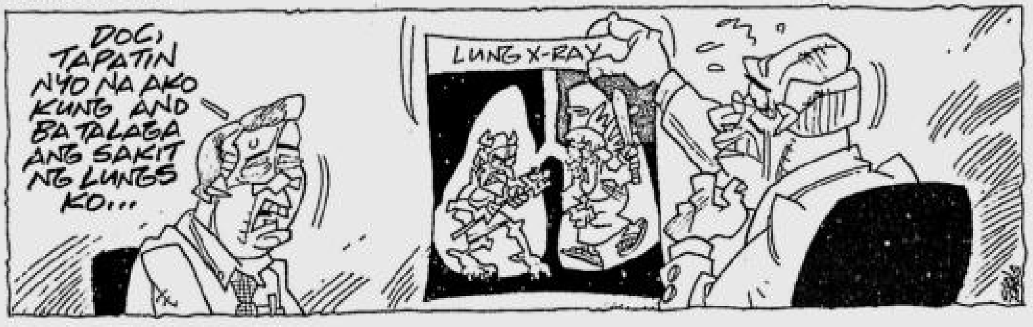
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, INABOLISH NA ANG DEATH PENALTY!!
ALAM KO!
PERO, MAS NAKAKA-TAKOT ANG PUMALIT, JAJA!!
ANU?
DEATH SQUAD PENALTY!!

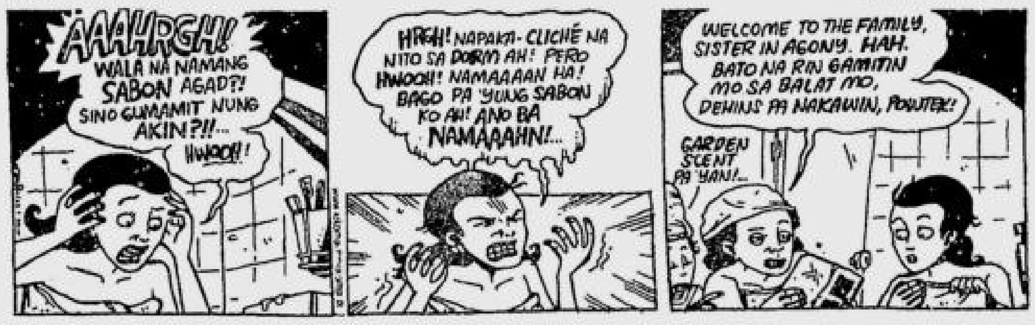
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Y'KNOW, I GIVE UP. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT I'VE BEEN TO MOUNT EVEREST THEN DON'T.
I DON'T LIKE WASTING MY TIME PROVING MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
AND I'M AN ACCOMPLISHED GUY, I'M TELLING YOU!
NOBODY BELIEVES ME BUT I REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN I WALKED ON THE MOON.

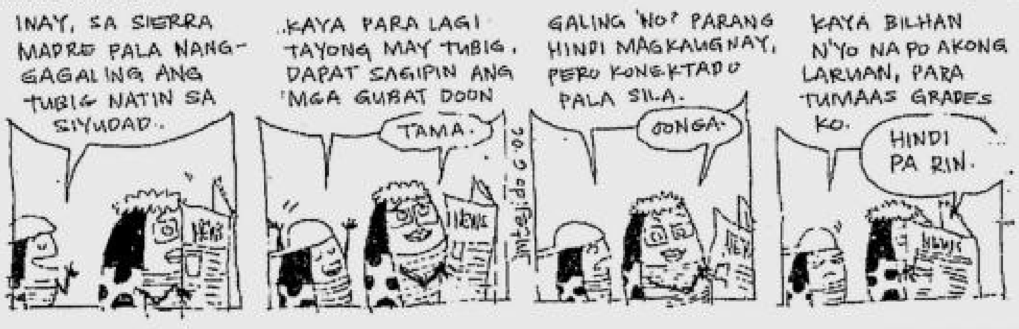
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


DOC, TAPATIN N'YO NA AKO KUNG ANO BA TALAGA ANG SAKIT NG LUNGS KO...
LUNG X-RAY

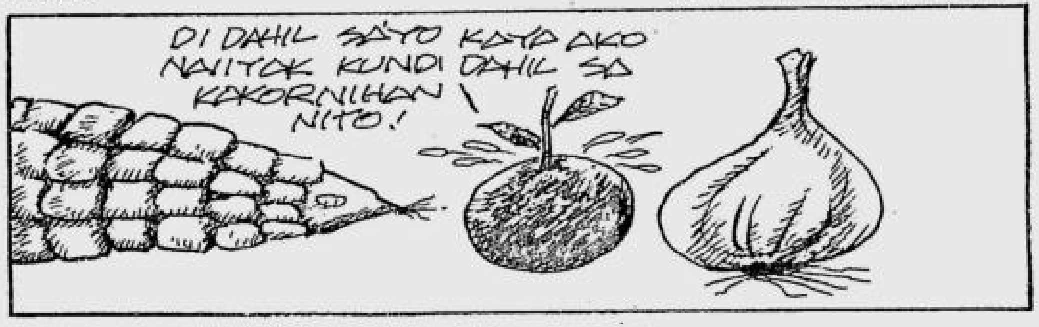
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


AAAHRGH! WALA NA NAMANG SABON AGAD?! SINO GUMAMIT NUNG AKIN?!!...
HWOOH!
HRGH! NAPAKA-CLICHÉ NA NITO SA DORM AH! PERO HWOOH! NAMAAAAN HA! BAGO PA 'YUNG SABON KO AH! ANO BA NAMAAAHN!...
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, SISTER IN AGONY. HAH. BATO NA RIN GAMITIN MO SA BALAT MO, DEHINS PA NAKAWIN, POWTEK!
GARDEN SCENT PA 'YAN!...

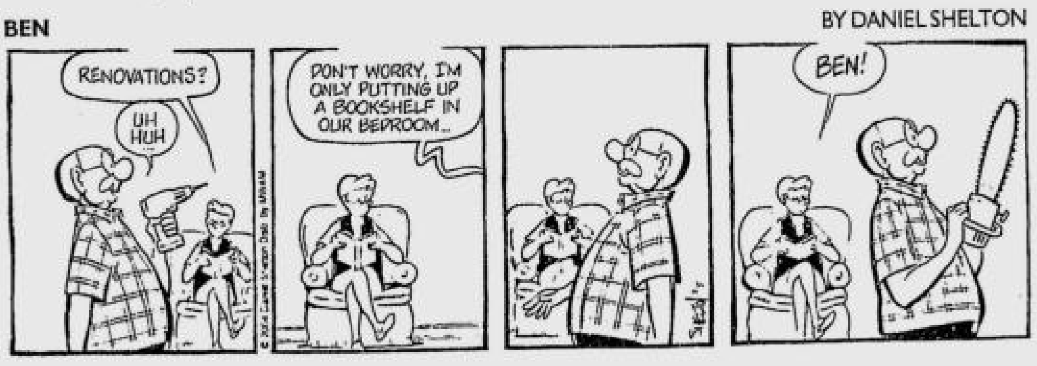
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, SA SIERRA MADRE PALA NANG-GAGALING ANG TUBIG NATIN SA SIYUDAD.
KAYA PARA LAGI TAYONG MAY TUBIG, DAPAT SAGIPIN ANG 'MGA GUBAT DOON
TAMA.
GALING 'NO? PARANG HINDI MAGKAUGNAY, PERO KONEKTADO PALA SILA.
GONGA.
KAYA BILHAN N'YO NA PO AKONG LARUAN, PARA TUMAAS GRADES KO.
HINDI PA RIN.
NEWS

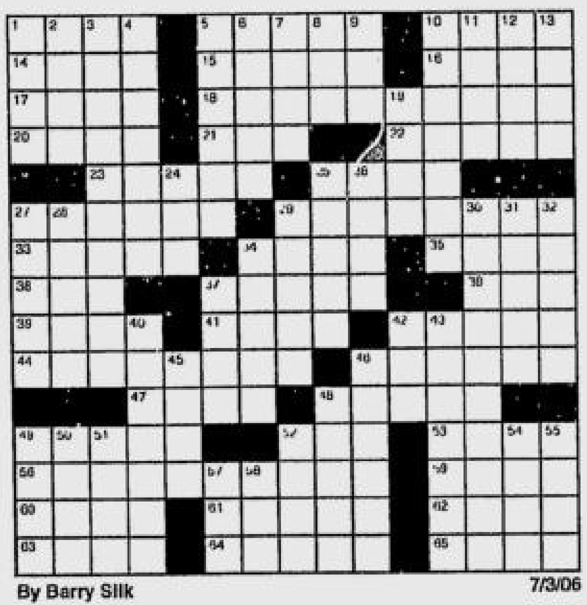
TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI DAHIL SA'YO KAYA AKO NAIITOK KUNDI DAHIL SA KAKORNIHAN NITO!

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


RENOVATIONS?
UH HUH
DON'T WORRY, I'M ONLY PUTTING UP A BOOKSHELF IN OUR BEDROOM...
BEN!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

7/3/06

ACROSS

1 Cowardly Lion portrayer
5 Stops short
10 Creative work
14 Chills and fever
15 Communicate by PC
16 Marlon's "The Godfather" role
17 Kennel sound
18 Chicken Little's friend
20 Market
21 PAT value
22 Impulses
23 Traffic order
25 Dress
27 Map key
29 Terrifying
33 Occupied
34 Very long story
35 Sandy hill
36 Lon of Cambodia
37 Service sector position
38 Lic. to pull teeth
39 Corner joints
41 Writer Murdoch
42 News services
44 Mornings and afternoons
46 "Buffy the Vampire __"
47 Freshly
48 Scottish landowner
49 Gulf of Bothnia island
52 Devour
53 Bonkers
56 Kipling bear
59 Mental impulse
60 Honor student's grades?
61 Wickerwork willow
62 Minn. neighbor
63 Operates
64 "How I Play Golf" author
65 Physique workshops

DOWN

1 Deposits eggs
2 1958 Pulitzer novelist
3 Frug relative
4 Answers
5 Lo and __!
6 Make revisions
7 Highway division
8 Extended family
9 Foxy
10 Excessive offer, perhaps
11 Metallic sound
12 The __ Reader
13 Oriental sauces
19 Feline grind
24 Chemical suffix
25 Belinda Carlisle's group
26 Part of U.A.R.
27 Like notebooks
28 "__ Gay"
29 Mecca pilgrims
30 Fussy person
31 Art house film
32 Chavez or Romero
34 Nail alternative
37 Silent performer
40 Poem parts
42 1051 letters
43 Working for
45 500-mi. race
46 Half-goat men
48 Kicked back
49 Some distance
50 Feast on Oahu
51 Islamic call to prayer
52 Pinza of "South Pacific"
54 Group working together
55 Fifth Avenue landmark
57 Holy cow!
58 Mil. entertainers

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	P	P	E	A	R		C	E	M	E	N	T	E	D
G	I	R	D	L	E		O	V	E	R	S	I	Z	E
A	N	A	D	E	M		C	I	L	I	A	T	E	S
I	N	T	O	X	I	C	A	N	T	S		A	K	A
N	A	E			T	R	I	C	E		A	N	I	L
S	T	R	A	I	T	E	N	E	D		V	I	E	T
T	E	S	T	C	A	S	E			P	E	A	L	S
			B	E	L	T		B	L	U	R			
A	P	S	E	S			G	L	A	S	N	O	S	T
L	E	T	S		M	A	R	A	T	H	O	N	E	R
B	R	A	T		A	B	O	D	E			E	R	A
E	S	P		E	X	A	C	E	R	B	A	T	E	D
D	O	L	O	M	I	T	E		I	O	D	I	N	E
O	N	E	L	I	N	E	R		T	R	I	M	E	R
S	A	D	D	L	E	R	Y		E	N	T	E	R	S

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7/3/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a skilled communicator. People quickly understand you and respond to you. You love words and often write or keep a journal. Because you are so sensitive, you sometimes appear cavalier. You like people. Honesty is important to you. Expect to let go of something this year. It's time to create space for something new to enter your life.

Birthdate of: Betty Buckley, actress; Tom Cruise, actor; Shoshannah Stern, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Pay attention to your personal relationships. Because loved ones and partners are more important to you today, make sure you don't respond to stuff with a knee-jerk reaction.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might want to devote time to home crafts and personal hygiene today. Shop for sundry items at drugstores. (Shampoo, floss, cotton balls—whatever.) It's also a good day to attend to small pets.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel more active and nurturing toward others today. Because of this, it's a good day to work with children. Your relations with romantic interests are quite emotional now as well.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): If you have any time for contemplation today, you'll appreciate this opportunity. (Memories from your childhood return to you, but now you can see things through your adult eyes.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're not satisfied with superficial conversations you have with others today, especially siblings. You want to get right down to the nitty-gritty. You want to share some meaningful truth.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You'll get pleasure by surrounding yourself with familiar objects today. For some reason, you feel more attached to what you own. You're not willing to part with something.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today the Moon is in your sign, which always makes you a bit more emotional than usual. You feel a greater need to be close to your loved ones. (Nothing wrong with that.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You need more privacy today. (You are a private person.) Time spent in seclusion will restore and replenish you. Work alone if you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Conversations with others, a female friend in particular, are important today. You want to establish a trusting bond with someone. You want it to be an easy give and take

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): People notice you today. Furthermore, discussions with parents, bosses and authority figures are significant. Be on your best behavior.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're restless to do something different. You have a strong desire to break from routine or travel somewhere you've never been before. (Do something completely new.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Emotional encounters with others are quite intense today. Don't overreact. Possibly, you want something that somebody else has. This can put you (or anyone else) on edge.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		4	3		7	9		
		5		9		6		
9	1						7	3
1			7		4			6
	3						4	
4			9		8			2
5	4						8	9
		2		4		7		
		3	2		9	5		

Difficulty Level ★

7/03

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	7	1	4	5	9	6	2	3
6	4	5	2	3	7	9	1	8
2	9	3	8	6	1	7	4	5
5	2	6	9	8	3	4	7	1
7	8	4	6	1	2	5	3	9
3	1	9	7	4	5	2	8	6
9	3	7	1	2	6	8	5	4
1	6	8	5	7	4	3	9	2
4	5	2	3	9	8	1	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Celebrities dance up a storm in ABC-5 program finals

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AS WE EXPECTED, JOSHUA Zamora and his dancing partner Janeth won the "Wild Card" round of ABC-5's "Shall We Dance?," and thus got into the show's season finals last Sunday, June 25. They did well in the ultimate dance showdown, but text-voters decided that the winners should be Tirso Cruz III and his dance partner.

In second place were Mystika and her partner, followed by Joshua and Janeth, and Desiree del Valle and her dance partner settled for fourth place.

On point of actual excellence in performance, our list put the teams of Joshua and Mystika ahead, but the text-votes had the final say, so the point is moot and academic.

What was impressive about the season finals was the high level of competition. Gone are the days when celebrity dance competitions meant overweight, lazy and spoiled stars dancing a little and relying mostly on their popularity to get the fans rooting for them.

Last June 25, all four teams danced their hearts out, setting a daunting standard for the celebrities being lined up for the tilt's third season.

First season winner Angelika dela Cruz did an exhibition number, and it was instructive to note that she did less well than the Season Two's four finalists. This goes to show how much the show has improved in the interim.

Another highlight in last Sunday's show was the number performed by the competition's judges, Regine Tolentino, Edna Ledesma and Audie Gemora.

While Audie took the easy way out and sang for the most part, Regine and Edna danced up a tsunami that blew our socks off and showed us what competition ballroom dancing should *really* be about.

We trust that the point was not lost on the tilt's finalists, and inspired them to work even harder to come up to their jurors' level in the extremely challenging field of competition dancing.

Program host Lucy Torres-Gomez should also be inspired to add more intensity, edge and oomph to her dance numbers. The one she performed last Sunday was an improvement over her characteristically sweet and soft dance routines in the past (and her costume was her most daring on the show to date), but she can do even better—and hotter.

A final note on the season finals: We wish the people behind the program would drop their "text-votes rule" mind-set for the ultimate dance showdown. As last Sunday's verdict went, viewers can't really be relied on to vote for the best dancers, because they vote more for popularity or nostalgia considerations.

This is unfair to the other, less popular finalists, who bust their guts trying to come up with their very best performances.

So, do bring the judges back for the season finals, so the finalists' best efforts can be more properly and fairly rewarded.

If popularity continues to hold sway, lesser celebrities would be discouraged from joining the competition in the future, because they wouldn't have the ghost of a chance to win viewer-voters' subjective nod.

Jamie Foxx

Channel [V] has chosen outstanding actor-singer Jamie Foxx as its star for the month—and with good reason. Foxx won an Oscar for his portrayal of Ray Charles in 2004's "Ray," and he was also hailed as a multi-platinum seller for his hit album, "Unpredictable."

He's only the fourth artist in show biz history to have won an Oscar *and* have a No. 1 album, after Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and Barbra Streisand.

Video art

Visual Pond and the Power Plant Mall are calling for entries to the End Frame Video Art Project, the country's first video art festival. It runs from Sept. 6 to 10 at Power Plant, and from Sept. 12 to 16 at The Cubicle Art Gallery.

The project's international partner is The One Minutes, an organization based in The Netherlands that collects one-minute video artworks from all over the world. Visual Pond is collecting Philippine one minutes through End Frame to enter The One Minutes Awards in November.

Submission forms and detailed information are available at http://endframe.visualpond.org. Deadline for submission of entries is on Aug. 1.

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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2:45, 6:10, 9:45 G
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:10, 3:40, 7:00, 10:30 G
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2:10, 5:35, 9:00 G

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SUPERMAN RETURNS G 5:00,8:00	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 3:00,6:00,9:00	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 4:00,7:00,10:00
SUPERMAN RETURNS G 3:30,6:30,9:30	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 11:30,2:30,5:30,8:30	SUPERMAN RETURNS G 4:30,7:30,10:30

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:10, 2:20, 5:30, 8:40 GP
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50 GP
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PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:40, 2:50, 5:55, 9:05 GP
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10:10, 1:15, 4:25, 7:35, 10:45 GP
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 10:35, 1:40, 4:45, 7:50, 10:55 GP
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JULY 29,2006	PILITA C. & ELIZABETH R.	8:30PM

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JULY 6,2006	PRIME COUNCIL	9:00PM
JULY 7,2006	FREEVERSE	9:00PM
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FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB GP 1:40, 4:50, 8:00
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB GP 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS MTRCB GP 1:10, 4:20, 7:30
PREMIERE THEATRE SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:30, 2:40, 5:50, 9:00 MTRCB GP
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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SCARY MOVIE 4
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
4 THE LAKE HOUSE
5 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 KINSEY
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:55, 4:10, 7:25, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS
2 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:35, 4:50, 8:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:00, 2:15, 5:30, 8:45, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:35, 2:50, 6:05, 9:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THX SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 THE LAKE HOUSE
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS

ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 THE LAKE HOUSE
4 SCARY MOVIE 4

M2 MARKET! MARKET!
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SCARY MOVIE 4
3 THE LAKE HOUSE
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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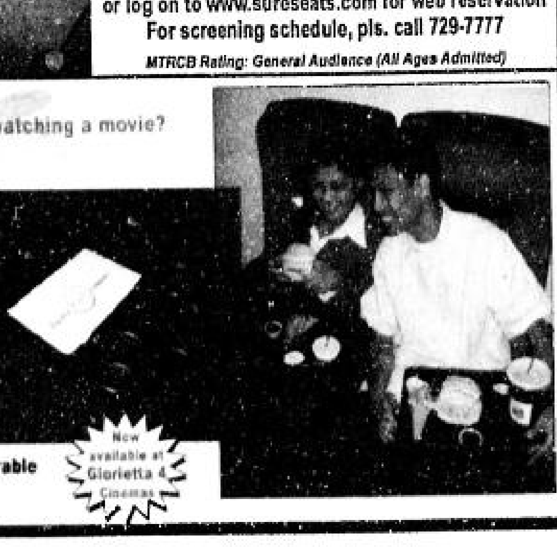

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YESTERDAY

All about Eva

Fans may know her only as Robin and Rustom's mom, but this strong-willed former actress has waged countless battles in and out of the household

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVA CARIÑO

BE FOREWARNED.

"I was called a strong woman by the press," says Eva Cariño, seemingly unperturbed by the description. "I was the original Annabelle Rama."

The feisty mom of Robin, Rustom, Rommel and Royette Padilla is referring to the equally feisty mother of Ruffa and Richard Gutierrez.

"Robin's detractors used to get to me. I actually sent out word: 'If I run into reporters who badmouth my sons, I'll clobber them with my *bakya* (wooden clogs).'"

But if it were her own sons that needed disciplining? "I'd run after them with a shotgun!"

The former actress explains that she was forced to become tough after her children's father, Camarines Norte Governor Roy Padilla, was assassinated in August 1988.

She recalls: "I couldn't just give up. I had eight children to raise. I had to be brave. When I say that, I don't mean hard-hearted, *ha*? I had no choice but to become resilient for my children. I couldn't show them that I was weak."

She admits that their lives were turned upside down when Robin followed in her show biz footsteps and ended up being touted as the Bad Boy of Philippine Movies.

"We were hit with intrigues left and right," she says.

The toughest test came when Robin and Rommel were jailed in the 1990s for illegal possession of firearms.

She looks back: "I had two sons in Muntinlupa. I couldn't sleep at night. What if there was a riot? What if the jail caught fire?"

The faint-hearted would've crumbled, but not Eva. Although, she admits, "If not for my faith in God, I would've gone crazy."

On her prison visits, she says, she would reprimand Robin, who had just converted to Islam, "Don't wear that head shroud in front of me. But later, I understood and accepted his decision to convert because I saw how it had changed him for the better."

Eva made the rounds of lawmakers' offices in both chambers of Congress to appeal her

WITH Roy Padilla on their h

sons' cases because, she say
prisoned based on an out
decree."

Jailed on August 29, 19
leased on April 17, 1998. Ro
in the same year.

Fearless 'provinciana'

She has been fearless in a

As a teenage girl in h
Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, sh
movies top-billed by idols
and Elsa Oria. She had thou
"typical provincial lass." Ev
16-year-old Lolita Rivera
Manila and tried her luck in

"My sister's father-in-la
was the chief sound man
One day, she was spotted
Silos in the studio. "People
like Norma Blancaflor and

The studio groomed her
bit roles in big movies.

She reminisces: "I was
with Nestor de Villa and Nid
of the wives of the king, play
Sr. I was in 'Salamangkero,'
and Nita Javier, and 'Everla
Montenegro and Irma Alegr

Every time she bumped
Mario, Rogelio, Nestor and
on the LVN lot, she got we
lala (dumbfounded)."

Poor health

In 1956, she was cast as l
Vietnamese-Filipino co-pro
Kawayan," directed by Man
had to quit," Eva says. "I had
my health started to fail. Ai
place."

In 1958, after a much ne
rediscovered.

"The director Consuelo 'A
my sister's neighbor. She re
her brother, Roy Padilla."

Padilla, producer-star-dir
for a fresh face for the se
presentation of Champion
ing ng Pilak," a trilogy
cast—Jose Padilla Jr., Arsen
na Delgado, Tony Santos.
Patria Plata.

Ateng christened her Ev
she says, "There was alre
driguez and an Aida Carin
also dubbed Joan Fontaine

In "Taginting," she was
brother Amado Cortez. Sh
was a strict director. He di
use [eye drops] for crying
was a prankster. In the m
scene, while I was weeping
wind." Her tears went pf

"I kept laughing. Roy w
me in front of the cre
Rivera!'"

Upset, she walked out
to the set. I told Ateng I'd
rected me." Eva had her w
Ateng took over as direct

Real-life producer

Off the set, Roy made
ing and dining her. Befor
courting her.

"*Ayun*, Roy took his jo
seriously that he 'produ
me," she says, cracking
child Romulus passed aw
birth.)

"He told me he was a ba
playboy!"

Raising eight childr
Royette, Roda, Romme
Richelda—became Eva
since her boys proved
stance, as a teenager, R

It was Rustom who
"He would tell me, 'Ma
day break-dancing with
of Baguio Cathedral!'
rolled at the Saint Lou
eventually finished Eco
kicked out."

She confronted Robi

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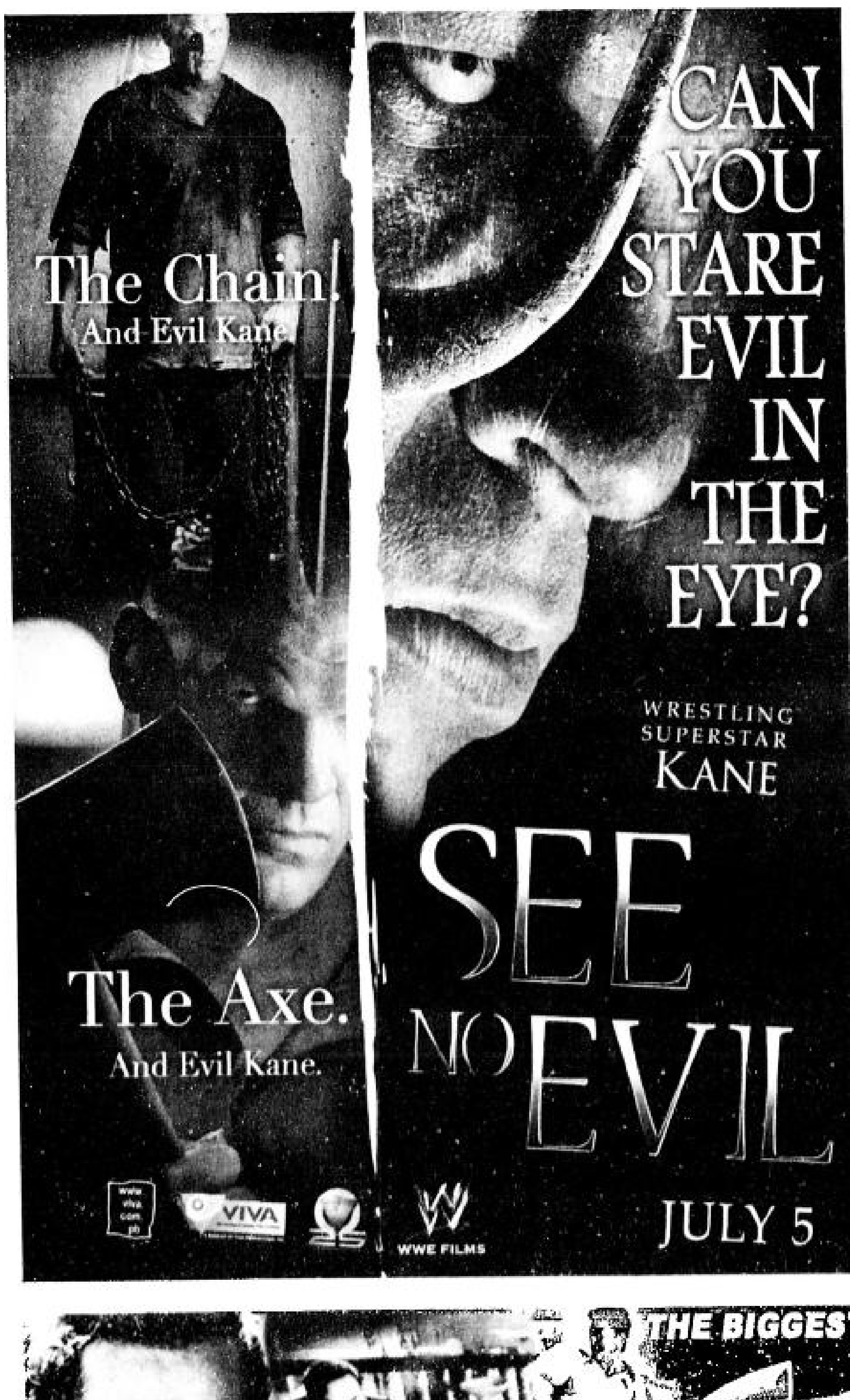

OPENS JULY 5
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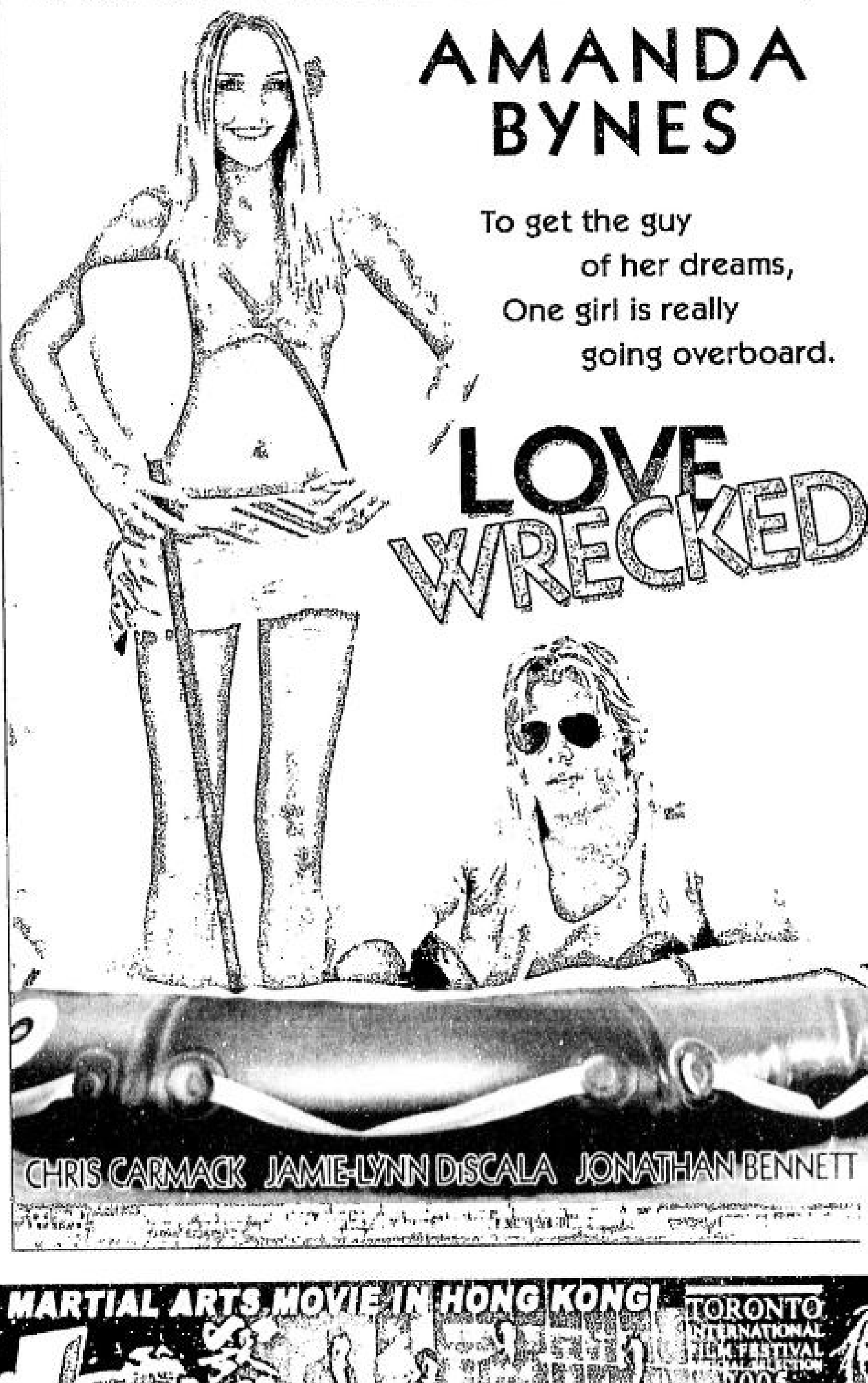
The Funny Girl from She's THE MAN is back in another Hilarious Romantic Comedy



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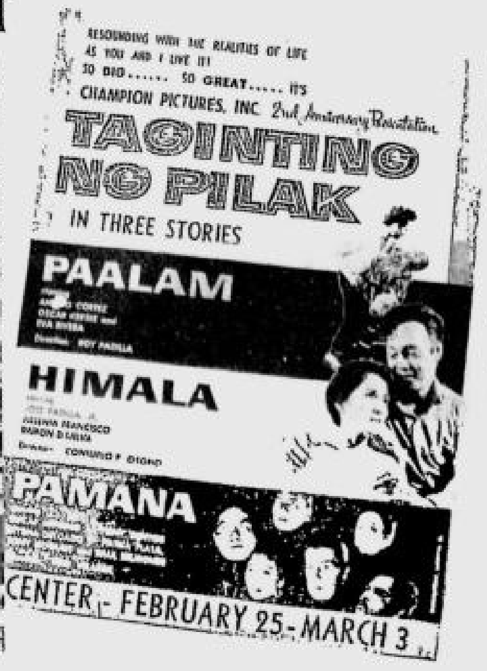
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In "Ibong Adarna" (third from right, seated) with Nestor de Villa (seated, right)

. "They were im-
ited martial-law

5, Robin was re-
mmel was set free

lot of other ways.
r hometown of
often watched
ogelio de la Rosa
ht of herself as a
n so, the plucky
Cariño moved to
he movies.
, July Hidalgo,
LVN," she says.
composer Juan
told me I looked
raluman."
or stardom with

'Ibong Adarna,'
Blanca. I was one
l by Lou Salvador
th Carlos Salazar
ting,' with Mario

nto her favorites
Jaime de la Rosa
k-kneed and "*tu-*

ading lady in the
uction, "Krus na
el Conde. "But I
a weak heart and
a Cariño took my

led rest, Eva was

teng' Osorio was
mmended me to

ctor, was looking
ond anniversary
ictures, "Tagint-
with an all-star-
Francisco, Myr-
scar Moreno and

Rivera because,
dy a Lolita Ro-
" At 21, she was
the Philippines.
aired with Roy's
recounts: "Roy
't allow actors to
enes. But Amado
dle of his death
uckets, he broke

furious, cursing
Damn you, Eva

efused to go back
rn only if she di-
"For that scene,

his star by win-
knew it, he was

my producer so
nine children for
(Their youngest
our days after his

lor, but he was a

Rowena, Rema,
tom, Robin and
iority, especially
cocious. For in-
ften cut classes.
led, Eva recalls:
obin spends the
ends at the back
were both en-
iversity. Rustom
s, but Robin was

said he'd rather

MAMA'S BOYS Rustom, Rommel and Robin

WITH granddaughter Camille, Robin's daughter with Leah Orosa

become an actor.

In 1986; Eva and Royette produced a concert with Basil Valdez and Joey Albert in Baguio. "That was where [manager-director] Deo Fajardo spotted Rommel, but my son said he was not interested. Robin butted in and told Deo that *he* wanted to be a star."

Robin would be joined in the biz later by Rommel, Royette and Rustom.

Recently, Rustom hit the *chismis* headlines, after coming out on the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Edition."

Now a preacher

Eva was hardly fazed by the ensuing controversy. She points out: "He's old enough to decide what he wants in life. And because he's my son I can never turn my back on him. All I can do is remind him not to neglect his spiritual life."

These days, Mrs. Eva divides her time between work as a preacher for Jehovah's Witnesses and her farm in Nueva Ecija.

"I preach in the squatter's area. I oversee the planting of rice in our field," she says. "My children say that, at my age, I should just relax, travel and visit my 22 grandkids!"

But she refuses to slow down.

"Would you believe I'm 70? My friends tell me that I should say I'm only 65. But why hide the truth?"

Defiantly, she says being a grandmother will not stop her from "wearing groovy embroidered jeans and going ballroom dancing as morning exercise."

EVA and Amado Cortez in "Taginting ng Pilak"

SWEET 16

WITH Robin's daughters with wife Liezl Queenie, Shen-Shen (in Eva's lap) and Kyle

HER CHILDREN
rst row, from left)
Rustom, Rommel,
obin and Royette;
second row, from
eft): Rema, Roda,
ena and Richelda

ROBIN
now and then

UNG Robin, right

WITH Rustom, Annabelle Rama and Inday Badiday on "Eye to Eye"

YOUNG Rustom

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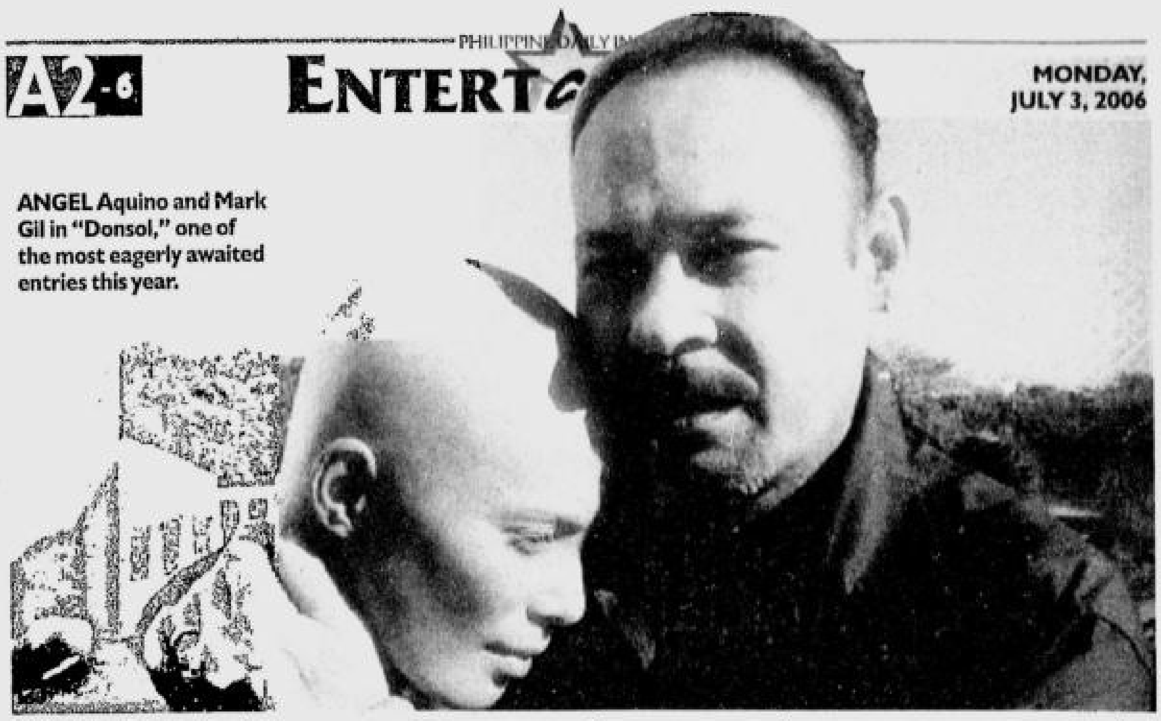


ANGEL Aquino and Mark Gil in "Donsol," one of the most eagerly awaited entries this year.

Another finalist dropped

One more Cinemalaya grantee fails to meet deadline

By Marinel R. Cruz

ANOTHER FULL-length feature finalist in this year's Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival has been disqualified because it did not meet the deadline, INQUIRER Entertainment learned on Saturday.

Khavn dela Cruz, director of "Larombata," failed to submit the film's final copy on May 30, the deadline set by the Cinemalaya organizational committee (Orgcom), according to the festival's monitoring group chair Robbie Tan.

The Orgcom earlier decided to terminate its contract with Jon Lazam, writer and project proponent of "Mga Anino sa Apuhap," after it deemed that Lazam's group had failed to complete the requirements agreed upon.

Bogged down

Quoting Dela Cruz, Tan said "Larombata," an animated film, was not finished because the director's computer had "bogged down," making it difficult to convert graphics files into visual form, as on a video display.

INQUIRER tried to contact Dela Cruz by phone on Saturday but failed. He later sent a text message informing us that he was in transit from Berlin (where he reportedly participated in a film fest) to Rome.

Tan said the Orgcom was set to meet on Wednesday to discuss the case of "Larombata."

"We have to determine what to do with the portion of the P500,000 seed grant that Cinemalaya has already given Dela Cruz," Tan explained.

JETT Pangan in "Tulad ng Dati"

Now with Cinemalaya are the final copies of the eight entries: "Batad, Sa Paang Palay" (by Benji Garcia), "Tulad ng Dati" (Michael Sandejas), "Donsol" (Adold Alix Jr.), "Ngipin ni Doring" (Dado Lumibao), "Lima" (Arah Jell Badayos), "Saan Nagtatago si Happiness?" (Florida Bautista), "Ang Huling Araw ng Linggo" (Nick Joseph Olanka) and "Rotonda" (Ron Bryant).

These finalists are competing for major awards to be handed out on July 23 in a ceremony at the CCP Main Theater in Pasay City. The festival runs from July 17 to 23. The list of nominees —to be drawn up by a five-member Cinemalaya Board of Jurors—will be released next week, said Tan.

Of the eight films, he said the most eagerly awaited—"Donsol" and "Tulad ng Dati."

"I'm flattered that my film is being considered as one of this year's best," said "Donsol" director Alix. "It was difficult [to make]. We shot entirely in Sorsogon; it has lots of underwater scenes."

"Donsol" tells the story of Teresa (Angel Aquino), a breast cancer survivor, and Daniel (Sid Lucero) a local information officer in the bucolic town. Also in the cast are Cherie Gil, Bembol Roco, Jaclyn Jose and Mark Gil.

Alix, who submitted his film's final copy on May 30, said his heart went out to Dela Cruz.

"His film is more difficult than 'Donsol.' I hope the Orgcom would reconsider its decision to disqualify his work," Alix said. "But Khavn has been an indie filmmaker for some time now. He'd know how to handle this. I'm also sure he is capable of showcasing his work in other venues."

Sandejas, who made "Tulad ng Dati," agreed: "This is a risk that both parties took. Khavn chose to join a festival with strict deadlines. Cinemalaya took a risk by backing up his project. If the deadline were to be moved for Khavn's sake, it would be unfair to the others who finished on time."

Very relieved

Because this is his first film, Sandejas said he is very excited—and, right now, "very relieved to have finished the film."

He said his work is an "alternate-reality drama." It tells of the ups and downs in the lives of members of the band The Dawn in the last 20 years. Lead vocalist Jett Pangan, drummer JB Leonor, guitarist Francis Reyes and bassists Caloy Balcells and Buddy Zabala are portraying themselves. Agot Isidro plays Pangan's wife and Ping Medina plays the late founder-guitarist Teddy Diaz.

"I owe a lot of people big time for this film. Many volunteered to help," said Sandejas. "We didn't have enough money, and there were lots of big scenes to shoot. The band members themselves asked their friends to help."

AERIALISTS perform during the "Love" preview at the Mirage hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 28. REUTERS

Cirque's 'Love' for the Beatles

LAS VEGAS—LUCY SWOOPS ON A trapeze across a sky twinkling with diamonds, Mr Kite presides over a psychedelic circus of stilt walkers and acrobats, and the unmistakable voices of John, Paul, George and Ringo fill the surround sound-equipped arena.

With a little help from a lot of friends, The Beatles are brought back to life in a Cirque du Soleil spectacular that marks the band's first agreement to collaborate on a stage show.

* * *

In the desert gambling city of Las Vegas, the Canadian acrobatic troupe Cirque du Soleil on Friday opened its "Love" celebration of the musical legacy of The Beatles that was almost five years in the making.

"Love" was born of a friendship between the late George Harrison and Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberte. It was blessed by Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, supported by John Lennon's widow Yoko Ono, and masterminded musically by legendary Beatles producer Sir George Martin.

McCartney, Starr, Yoko Ono, Martin and Harrison's widow Olivia attended Friday night's premiere along with Lennon's sons Julian and Sean, his first wife Cynthia and Harrison's children Blair and Dhani.

Played in a custom-built, 2,000-seat theater at the Mirage hotel, "Love" takes its audience on a part-chronological, part-fantasy journey through the life and times of the four young men from Liverpool who inspired a worldwide Beatlemania that continues 40 years after their first hit record.

High-wire acrobats, break dancers, trampoline artists and skaters bring life to characters like Sgt. Pepper, Lady Madonna and the sea world of Octopus's Garden in a visual feast of color, light and adventure.

But for avid Beatles fans, the real star of the show is the music—some 130 songs remixed, mashed up and born again with a clarity never heard before.

Sir George Martin, who worked on every Beatles album except "Let It Be," and his son Giles Martin spent two years working from the original master tapes of The Beatles sessions to produce a 90- minute soundtrack that is played through six speakers in the back of each seat as well as a panoramic sound system. *Reuters*

'We have been united to sing harmony'

The Manhattan Transfer: Doo-wop!

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

YOU NEVER REALLY KNOW what harmony is all about until you hear The Manhattan Transfer.

Their Grammy-winning versions of "Boy from New York City" and "Until I Met You," a cappella rendition of "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" and foot-stomping take of the Weather Report's "Birdland"—said to be their unofficial anthem —should be proof enough.

The voices of Janis Siegel, Tim Hauser, Alan Paul and Cheryl Bentyne hold their own individually but come together seamlessly like a string quartet, the combination worth more than the sum of the parts.

And although it has been more than 25 years since they got together, The Manhattan Transfer has remained the standard by which other vocal groups are measured.

In an e-mail interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Bentyne said they sustain that elusive harmony by constantly listening to each other.

Some may think it is instinctive on their part since they have been together for so long, but Bentyne said the contrary is true. They still have to practice and keep on improving.

"For recording a new CD, we rehearse for about four to six weeks," she said.

It also helps that the four members have been together since 1979, start of the second phase of The Manhattan Transfer, which was founded by Hauser in the late 1960s.

They have developed into more than just band mates to become lifelong friends.

"Our children grew up together as well and are also friends. But we are more family than friends," Bentyne said.

The Manhattan Transfer won Grammy Awards in both pop and jazz in 1981 for "Boy From New York City" and "Until I Met You." They got another Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance, Duo or Group, the following year for "Route 66," and again the next year for "Why Not."

They have been singing these songs for years in front of audiences or in the confines of a recording studio. But Bentyne said "Birdland" remains a tough assignment.

"'Birdland' is still very challenging. It's very demanding on our voices and we know the audience expects it to be great," she said. "The easiest is any doo-wop!"

Doo-wop refers to the vocal-based rhythm and blues style popularized in the 1950s and 1960s in the United States, which many use to describe The Manhattan Transfer's sound.

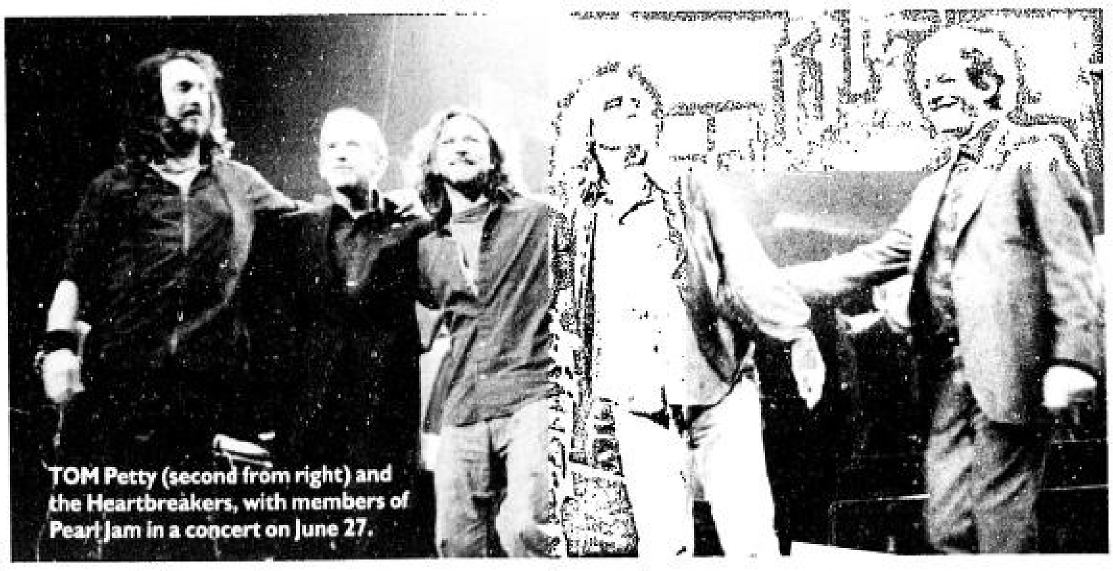
Examples would be "Operator," a remake of a 1950s gospel tune and "Tuxedo Junction," which was based on a Glenn Miller arrangement.

Filipino music lovers will get to hear these tunes and more when The Manhattan Transfer arrives for two concerts—on July 5 at Waterfront Hotel in Cebu and July 7 at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City as part of their Asian tour.

It can be quite rigorous to be on the road and stay in top form but, Bentyne said, they keep going because of the music.

The group is even discussing the possibility of soon coming up with new material to complement their classics.

"The group keeps going strong, Bentyne said, "because of the music... and the realization that we have been united for a greater purpose... to sing harmony."



TOM Petty (second from right) and the Heartbreakers, with members of Pearl Jam in a concert on June 27.

SPIN CITY

Tom Petty opens closet

CLEVELAND—IT'S NOT OFTEN A rock star opens up his bedroom closet to the world. Tom Petty did and the results are on display at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, which is showcasing Petty and the Heartbreakers in an exhibit that opened Friday.

When representatives from the Rock Hall visited Petty's Spanish-style ranch in Malibu, California, in April looking for artifacts, he invited them into his bedroom, then into his rather sizable closet.

Petty pulled out a flowered shirt he wore in the video for his biggest chart hit, "Free Fallin'," and the gray jacket he wore as a member of the esteemed Traveling Wilburys. He also produced a nylon bag of notebooks filled with handwritten lyrics.

"We left his house pinching ourselves," said curator Howard Kramer.

The exhibit includes a montage of the band's videos, including the psychedelic, "Alice in Wonderland"-inspired "Don't Come Around Here No More." Petty's oversized hat from his "The Mad Hatter" role is a permanent part of the museum's collection. *AP*

New, improved Freestyle

FREESTYLE is back with new members, a new sound and a new album.

The album is titled "Freestyle Live @ 19 East," the band's first with new vocalists Joshua Desiderio and Mike Luis and new bassist Rommel de la Cruz (Barbie's Cradle) who replaced Carlo Tapia, who has migrated to Australia.

Freestyle
LIVE @ 19 East

Still with the band are Tat Suzara, Nikki Cabardo, Gerard Banzon and female vocalist Jinky Vidal.

On July 14, the band will sign autographs at Tower Records Makati (4 p.m.), Landmark (4:40 p.m.), Music One Greenbelt (5:30 p.m.) and O-Music Greenbelt (6 p.m.).

Sponge Cola contract

SPONGE Cola—Goss (bass), Yael (vocals), Chris (drums) and Armo (guitar)—has signed an exclusive recording deal with Universal Records. Their new album will be released next month. Present during the contract signing are, from left, Gosh, Yael, Universal's Kathleen Dy-Go and Peter Chan, Chris and Armo.

SPONGECOLA

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PACQUIAO THE MOVIE

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SUPERMAN RETURNS
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SM CITY ILOILO
CARS
SUPERMAN RETURN
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SCARY MOVIE 4
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SCARY MOVIE 4
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ELIJAH Castillo

JOEL Lamangan, Manny Valera and Lily Monteverde

CLAUDINE Barretto and Aga Muhlach PHOTOS BY LYN RILLON

Regal, Aga, Claudine big Star Awards winners

By Nini Valera

THE MULTI-GENERATIONAL LOVE story "Blue Moon," produced by Regal Entertainment as an entry to last year's Metro Manila Film Festival, was declared Movie of the Year on Friday at the 22nd Star Awards for Movies held at the Grand Ballroom of the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

This is the second Best Picture award (it was the top MMFF 2005 winner) for the movie, which also gave director Joel Lamangan the Star Award for Director of the Year.

Regal matriarch Lily Monteverde dedicated the Movie of the Year trophy to all producers.

Mother's dream

"Many people do not understand why I still make movies," she said in her short acceptance speech. "What they don't know is that for me to produce movies, I have to make a lot of sacrifice. [But] it is my dream to go on producing movies."

In fact, she has been doing so since 1961. And this year, Regal has lined up at least a dozen movies for production.

Lamangan called on all movie workers to unite, to keep the industry alive. It was the fourth award for Lamangan.

This year's Star Awards introduced two new categories—Digital Movie of the Year and Digital Movie Director of the Year, apparently recognizing the emergence of digital films as a major force.

ufo Pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" was named Digital Movie of the Year, and its director, Aureaus Solito, Digital Movie Director of the Year.

MATT Ranillo III, Katya Santos, Angelu de Leon and Ricky Davao

Solito described his win as a dream that has finally come true—even if "Maxi" had already won recognition from audiences and film festivals around the world.

Aga Muhlach, who was named Actor of the Year for his role in the movie "Dubai," admitted that awards ceremonies still made him nervous. He poked fun at himself, saying, "I'm so *baduy*(tacky)." INQUIRER Entertainment later found out that his hands were as cold as ice minutes after he went down the stage.

He commended fellow nominee Ricky Davao ("Mga Pusang Gala") and thanked co-stars Claudine Barretto and John Lloyd Cruz, who won Supporting Actor of the Year, for "making things easy for me."

Aga also won as Male Face of the Night; and Ana Roces, Female Face of the Night.

Like Aga, Claudine Barretto was jittery when she received her Actress of the Year Award for "Nasaan Ka Man." She began thanking people involved in the movie "Dubai" after a clip of the film was erroneously shown on screen.

"I was confused by that," she later told INQUIRER. "I knew I was nominated for 'Nasaan,' but what was shown was a clip from 'Dubai.' But I also thanked the people I worked with in 'Nasaan.'

This is the fourth Best Actress award for Claudine; she received the first a few years ago for "Luna."

Glad she came

Gloria Diaz was named Supporting Actress of the Year for "Nasaan Ka Man." The former Miss Universe told INQUIRER that she was the happiest person that night "because I wasn't expecting to win."

She said, "My aim now is to win an award in a comedy role. That would be the ultimate for me. I almost did not come tonight because I have a fever. I'm glad I came."

Receiving the Ulirang Artista Award for Armida Siguion-Reyna was her daughter-in-law Bibeth Orteza.

"She is also a model mother-in-law," Bibeth said in Filipino.

It was a tie for Annalyn Bansi-il ("Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong") and Elijah Castillo ("Pepot Artista") for Child Performer of the Year.

New Actress of the Year was Ryza Cenon for "Love Struck" and New Actor of the Year was Nathan Lopez for "Maximo Oliveros."

Other winners: Marya Ignacio, Editor, for "Nasaan Ka Man"; Allan Tijamo, Original Screenplay, "Blue Moon"; Charlie Peralta, Cinematographer, "Nasaan Ka Man"; Joey Luna, Production Designer, "Blue Moon"; Vince de Jesus, Musical Scorer, "Let The Love Begin"; and Addiss Tabong, Sound Engineer, "Nasaan Ka Man."

Singer-composer Ogie Alcasid received the Original Theme Song of the Year award for "Ikaw Lamang," from "Dubai," which was interpreted by Gary Valenciano.

After five years of being nominated for Darling of the Press, Ara Mina finally won. Stars of the Night were Hero Angeles and Ruffa Gutierrez.

"I think it's because of what they wore," said actress Irma Adlawan.

Ruffa, who hosted the show with Boy Abunda, had two costume changes. But stealing the scene from her was a unidentified starlet, who turned up wearing only body paint.

Songs, laughs

Spicing up the awards rites were musical numbers from some of the brightest stars in the record industry. Lovi Poe, John Lapus and Nikki Gil did a string of songs popularized by some of today's hottest bands. Erik Santos and Rachelle Ann Go sang the songs nominated for Original Theme Song of the Year.

Sarah Geronimo sang a medley of "Bituin Walang Ningning" and "Pangarap na Bituin."

Not to be outdone by the younger singers, Rico J. Puno brought the house down with his rendition of the Eraserheads hit "Huling El Bimbo." In his trademark raspy vocals, Rico J. delivered a quirky performance accompanied by "back-up dancers" Maui Taylor, Cherrie Lou, Andrea del Rosario and Jenny Miller.

It's Superman! No, it's KC Montero!

RUSHES

GUESS WHO WORE A SUPERMAN SUIT TO the celebrity screening of "Superman Returns" at Mall of Asia's Imax Theater on Wednesday? Okay, don't guess, just look—it's a veejay... it's Geneva's boyfriend... it's KC Montero!

Better copy for celebs?

Now, look again. The stars who showed up at the special screening are all smiling. Does this mean they got a better print of the movie than was screened for the press the day before?

Must be love

Superstar Judy Ann Santos took time out from a killer schedule to be with her boyfriend, TV host Ryan Agoncillo, on a three-day trip to Davao last week.

The lovebirds ate lunch and supper with the staff of "Philippine Idol," a show which Ryan hosts. During a break they took a ferry boat to Pearl Farm on Samal Island.

Sorry, girls

Speaking of Superman... actor Brandon Routh took girlfriend Courtney Ford to see the Man of Steel's image at Madame Tussaud's House of Wax in Los Angeles. Eat your heart out, girls.

JLo tell-all

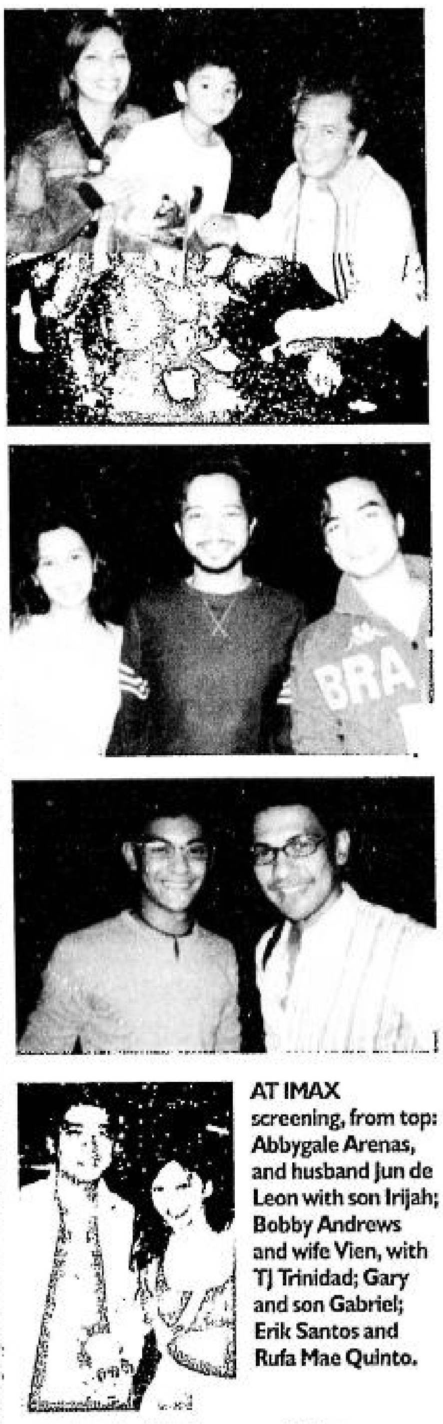
Also in LA, Jennifer Lopez won legal ban on the plan of her ex-husband Ojani Noa to reveal intimate details of her sex life in a tell-all book, according to court documents made public Friday. (Yawn.) *AFP*

Koplowitz on Schneider

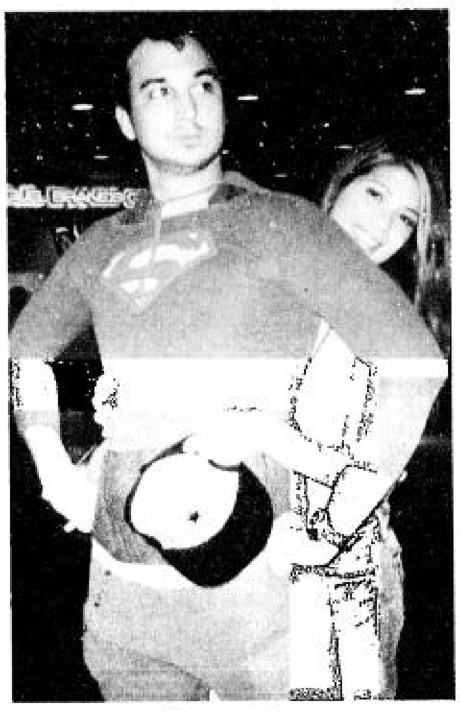
This is not a spelling exam. This is a report on comic actor Rob Schneider who's back on the set of his directorial debut film a day after collapsing from heat exhaustion and food poisoning, his spokeswoman said on Friday. The spokeswoman's name is Shara Koplowitz. *Reuters*

Sottos on the course

A lot of Sotto celebs turned out for the Mowelfund celebrity golf tournament over the weekend. The show biz Sottos were, of course, eclipsed by the golf star Sotto, Paulina, daughter of Vic Sotto and Angela Luz.



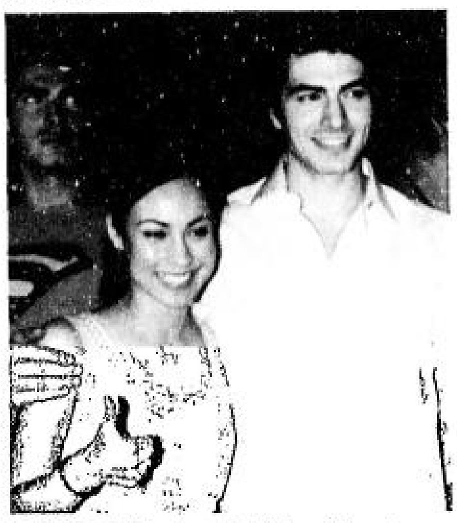
AT IMAX screening, from top: Abbygale Arenas, and husband Jun de Leon with son Irijah; Bobby Andrews and wife Vien, with TJ Trinidad; Gary and son Gabriel; Erik Santos and Rufa Mae Quinto.



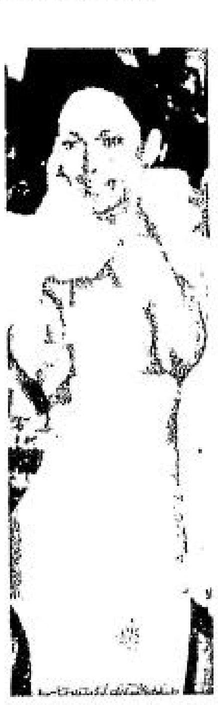
KC Montero and Geneva Cruz

PAULINA Sotto

TITO Sotto, Arnold Clavio and Boots Anson-Roa



BRANDON Routh and girlfriend Courtney Ford AP



JENNIFER Lopez

RYAN and Juday in Davao

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MPC drops tollway bid, eyes power sector

Seen joining auction for Transco concession

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Abigail L. Ho

METRO PACIFIC CORP. HAS DISCONTINUED TALKS with the Lopezes to acquire Benpres Holdings Corp.'s 49-percent interest in Manila North Tollways Corp., operator of the 80-kilometer North Luzon toll road, MPC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan told the INQUIRER business staff on Friday.

Pangilinan also said that as a result of unsuccessful negotiations with the Lopez group, MPC has dropped similar negotiations with French firm Egis and Australian company Leighton Asia Ltd., minority shareholders of MNTC.

"(Negotiations are) dead," Pangilinan said when asked how the talks with the Lopezes were progressing.

An agreement with the Lopez group might have led to a deal with MNTC's foreign shareholders—Egis and Leighton Asia—which were also considering selling a combined 23 percent to MPC.

Aside from flagship firm Benpres holding 49 percent, the Lopez group's First Philippine Holdings Corp. owns 51 percent of First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp., which in turn owns 67 percent of MNTC.

Pangilinan earlier expressed dismay after negotiations with the Lopezes dragged on for more than a year.

"We would be patient but we can't wait forever. We have the option to look at other opportunities because these discussions have been going on for a year. It would be more prudent for (MPC) to look at other opportunities," Pangilinan said.

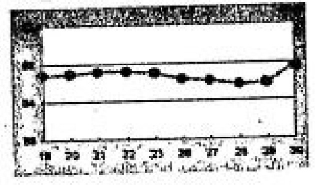
Pangilinan earlier said that MPC wanted to increase its investment in the Skyway, Metro Manila's overhead highway to the south, but an Indonesian group that controlled the Skyway could not decide if it wanted to retain control or sell. Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., a joint venture of

MPC/B4

PANGILINAN: "We can't wait forever."

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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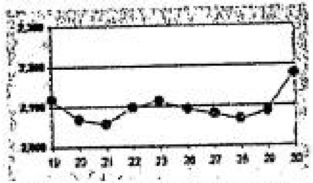


(See stock market report on Page B2)

Market rally seen to continue

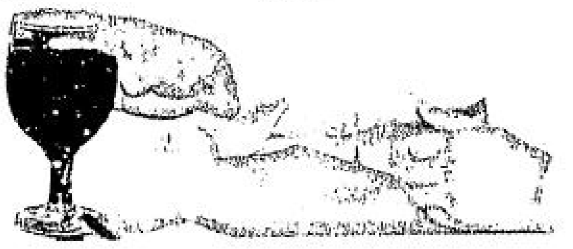
SHARE PRICES ARE EXPECTED TO RISE AS Friday's euphoria may continue this week, buoyed by global market rallies, according to fund managers and analysts.

"I think the market still has momentum. We may see some buying this week since the

MARKET/B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **IBP's double** standard /B4
- **Gov't moves** to ease burden of exporters /B7
- **Europe,** Japan threaten emerging markets /B8



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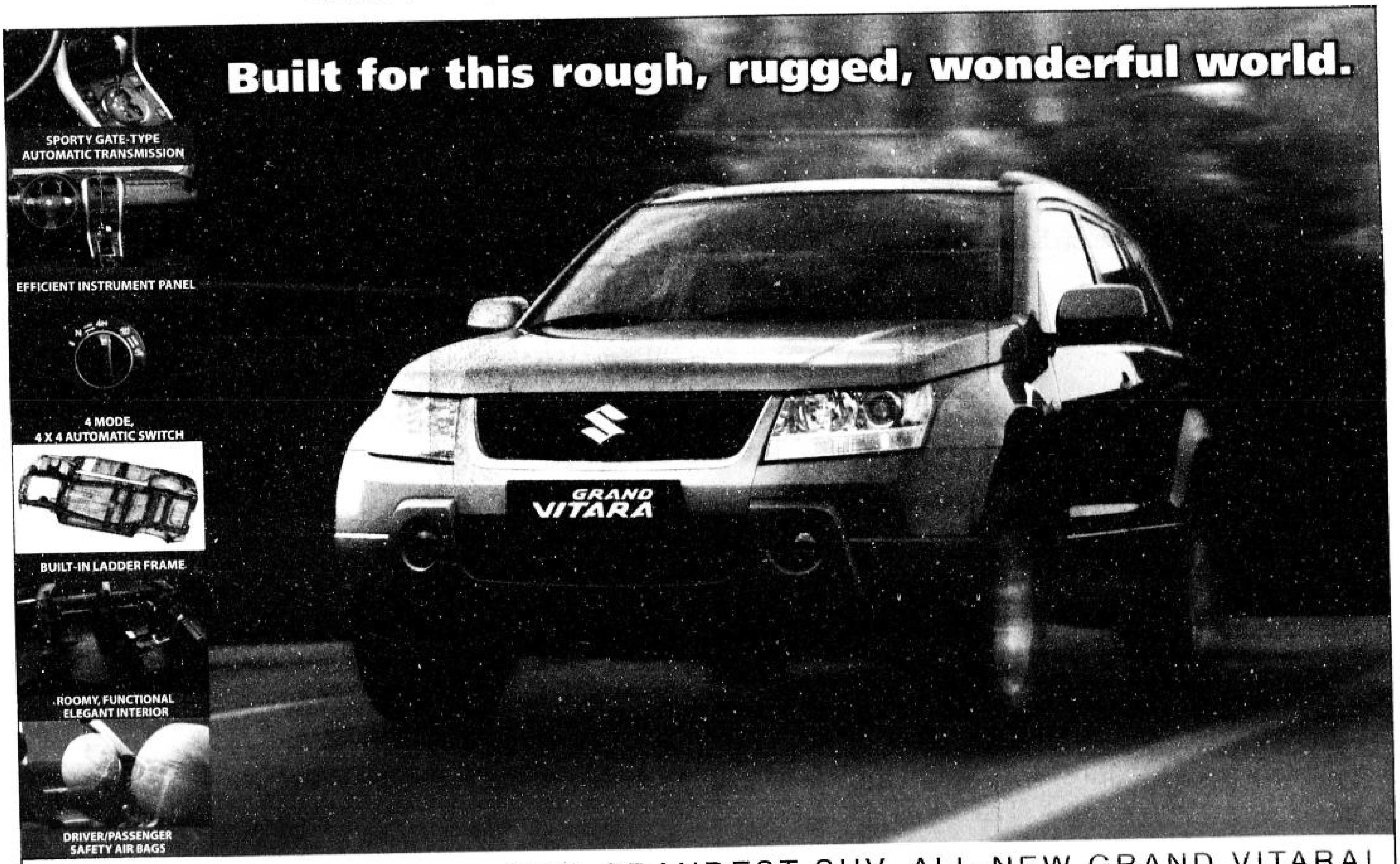
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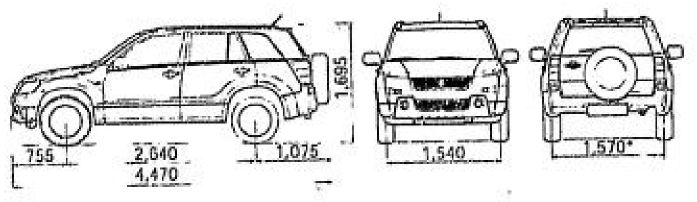

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Market rally seen to continue

From page B1

market has not corrected from the past weeks' declines," said Fitzgerald Aclan, chief trust strategist at Banco de Oro.

Grace Cerdenia of online broker 2TradeAsia.com said a buoyant tone prevailed in the stock market last week on bets that the US Federal Reserve may soon end its series of interest rate increases for this year.

Last week, the benchmark PSEi advanced 65 points to 2,178.79, up 3.1 percent week-on-week, led by financial stocks, holding and property firms.

2TradeAsia said in a weekly report that local monetary officials retained benchmark overnight rates, assuring the market that inflation-related pressures were tame.

Last week's gainers included Metrobank, up 9.7 percent to P34, and JG Summit Holdings Inc., which rose 9.1 percent to P6. Philex Mining Corp. was also up 8.9 percent last week to P4.25 for class "B" shares after the firm said it considered consolidating its power-related ventures under its unit Brixton Energy and Mining Corp. Bank of the Philippine Islands rose 8.7 percent to P50 while parent firm Ayala Corp. was also up 6.5 percent to P370 after its fully owned subsidiary LiveIt Solutions acquired 11 percent in call center operator eTelecare Global Solutions for P800 million.

Cerdenia said investors would continue to pay attention to the US economic picture. "Any reassuring statement from the Fed (that) its interest rate hike plan has already ended would provide a positive kick on equities, though sentiment could still wobble in case vague directions are made."

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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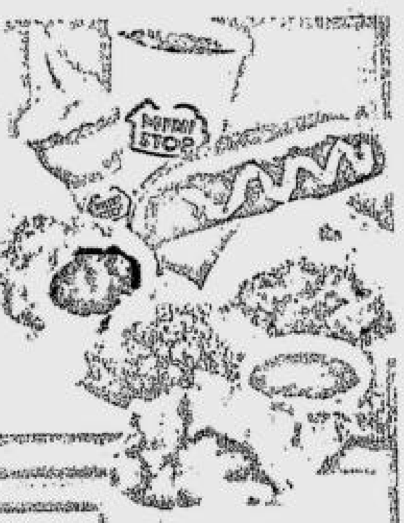

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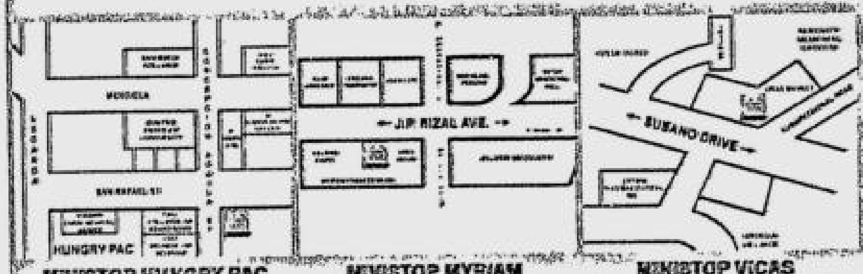

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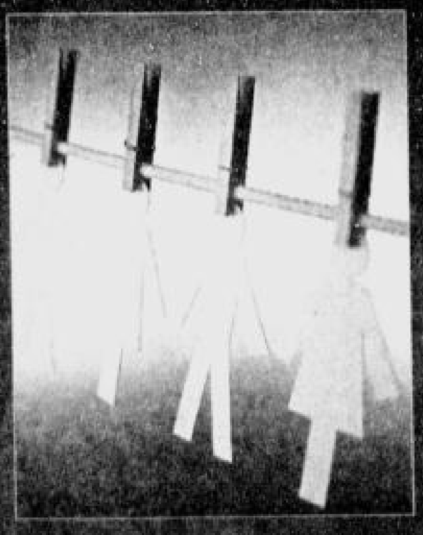

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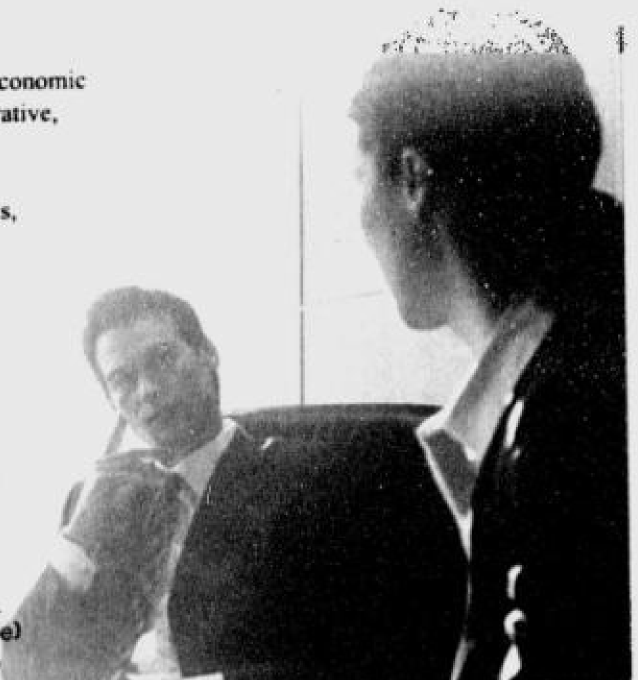

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IBP's double standard

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

HE LEADS MENDIOLA PROTESTS AGAINST the alleged corrupt and repressive GMA regime, but right inside his own backyard, Jose Anselmo Cadiz, the president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, goes weak when confronting legal infractions involving fellow lawyers.

First, Cadiz and the IBP questioned the Supreme Court suspension of a fellow Sigma Rhoan who was found to have appeared in an intracorporate suit against his very own client.

Now, Cadiz and his IBP board have again exonerated another lawyer and an Erap appointee whom the Supreme Court has just tagged as having compromised a Baguio judge.

The Supreme Court last week fined and censured Judge Antonio Reyes for having his three-month dining spree at the Baguio Country Club paid for by club president Federico Agcaoili, while the judge was hearing a BCC case in his sala.

While the high tribunal censured Reyes, the IBP, tasked by the SC to investigate the disbarment case using the same testimony and documents, nevertheless let go Agcaoili for alleged lack of evidence.

In other words, while the judge took the fall from the Supreme Court en banc, the lawyer—a former president of the Philippine Bar Association at that—who had inveigled his honor into such an embarrassment goes scot-free.

BIR's winning record

CONTRARY to popular impression, the Bureau of Internal Revenue does win tax collection cases.

Out of the 10 BIR-related cases that the Supreme Court decided from January to June, the BIR won six, all except one involving tax payment disputes.

The most contentious of the six victories involved Benguet Corp. during the presidency of Delfin Lazaro, whose P6.1-million check payments for the withholding taxes of top Benguet officials were found to have been funneled instead to pay for the documentary stamp taxes of other parties.

Despite blaming its agent, LC Diaz and Co., for the checks having been waylaid, Benguet was still found liable for the unpaid taxes, which had ballooned to more than P12 million because of interests and penalties. Lazaro later went on to become energy secretary of Fidel V. Ramos.

Hazardous headlights

THE ADVERTISING Board has rejected the application of Maxim, the men's magazine, to install a billboard by the Rockwell flyover because the model's mammaries are said to be "way too big."

Despite the bosom already having been graphically downsized, the AdBoard, fearing the frontal attractions could cause motoring accidents, still rejected the appeal.

According to the grapevine, the offending billboard is but a blow-up of an upcoming cover page of Maxim; the wonderfully endowed model goes by the name of Angelica Panganiban, a current Bench endorser.

Money-go-round

- FORMER Deputy Executive Secretary Richard Ferrer, who is now with the PLDT Group, is set to assume the presidency of the Makati Medical Center to backstop his chair, Manuel V. Pangilinan.
- THE ASIAN Wall Street Journal, no admirer of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has sniffed at the impeachment "circus" the opposition is again mounting.

"If Manila's politicians could stop squabbling long enough, they'd realize that there are bigger things to worry about," the business paper said in a June 29 editorial.

Heard through the grapevine

THE ROMUALDEZES are expanding their bread-and-butter People's Journal tabloid by launching a higher-end variant by the last quarter.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Drillers spending $100M to revive Galoc oilfield dev't

Offshore Palawan project seen yielding first oil in November 2007

THE SURGE IN CRUDE OIL PRICES HAS prompted local and foreign drillers to revive oil exploration activities at the Galoc oilfield in offshore Palawan.

This was reported by Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp. chair James L. Go and president Robert Coyiuto Jr. during OPMC's stockholders' meeting last week.

The Galoc oilfield is located at a water depth of 1,000 feet and situated in Block C of Service Contract-14 in northwest Palawan.

The officials said that the Department of Energy has already approved Phase 1 of the plan of development for Galoc. This includes the drilling of two horizontal wells, the installation of production facilities, and the lease of a floating production storage offloading tanker or FPSO with a capacity of 450,000 barrels.

The first phase of development is estimated to cost $100 million and the recoverable oil reserves are estimated to be in the range of 10 to 20 million barrels.

According to the development plan, drilling of the two Galoc production wells is scheduled to start in June 2007 and will be completed by September. Installation of facilities and hook up to the FPSO will be in October and start of production or first oil is anticipated in early November 2007. Initial production or flow rate is programmed at 21,000 barrels of oil a day.

The Galoc crude is expected to fetch a conservative price of $55 a barrel or better during production. Should results of Phase 1 prove to be encouraging, another one or two production wells will be drilled under Phase 2 of Galoc development.

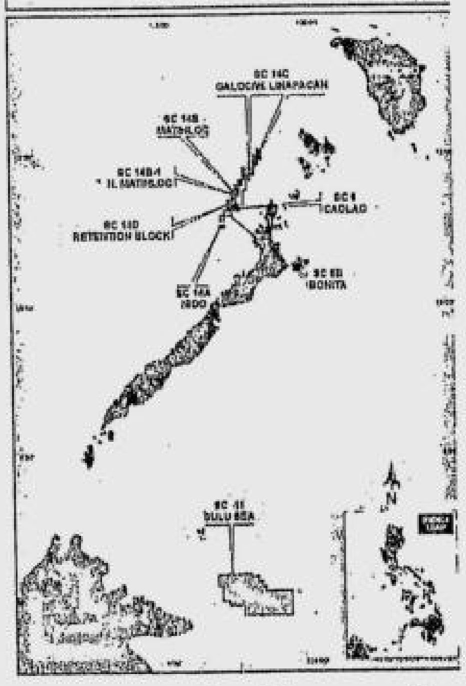
The Galoc development project is being carried out by a consortium led by Galoc Production Co. (GPC) with Nido Petroleum Philippines Pte. Ltd. (Australia) as paying parties and a group of Philippine-owned companies as carried or non-paying partners. Oriental Petroleum has the biggest carried interest of 7.6 percent, which is also its share of the distributable oil revenues.

Go and Coyiuto Jr. indicated that with the anticipated income from Galoc, Oriental Petroleum would hopefully be in a position to pay its way in future petroleum projects without having to farm out or reduce the company's interest. The company may also venture in other energy projects if enough revenue is generated from Galoc.

The presently producing Nido and Matinloc oilfields generated for Oriental Petroleum a gross profit of P55 million from its share of oil revenues from these two oilfields. Third parties have pending interest to explore for oil in the other blocks of SC-14 and SC-6B in northwest Palawan such as West Linapacan and Cadlao. The proposals are now being evaluated.

Just recently, agreement has been reached with an Australian-based oil company to farm into SC-41 South Sulu Sea. Despite disappointing results of recent drillings in the area, the South Sulu Sea contract area continues to be prospective, being situated in the same geologic setting as the prolific oil and gas fields of Brunei, Sarawak and East Kalimantan. The deepwater portion will be the object this time of this new round of exploration. Oriental Petroleum presently has an interest of 27 percent in SC-41.

ORIENTAL PETROLEUM CONTRACT AREAS



PSE to seek tax perks for realty scheme

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) will spearhead a proposal to help legislate incentives for a special type of trust security dedicated to real estate investments, PSE president Francis Lim said.

Lim said the PSE would take the lead in filing a proposal for Congress to enact a law allowing real estate investment trusts (REITs) to operate in the country with tax perks.

An REIT is a security that sells like a stock on major stock exchanges in the world and invests in real estate directly, either through income-producing pieces of property or mortgages. An REIT can be set up by an existing property firm that may pool its hotel, mall or other property assets and then list a special-purpose company containing these assets on the local bourse. An REIT can also be designed to target small investors.

Similar to those in other countries, Lim said tax incentives that should be made available to Philippine REITs should include exemption or a reduction in capital gains taxes when an REIT buys a property and lower income taxes.

PSE officials estimated that the country's P600 billion worth of foreclosed assets could be tapped to jumpstart REITs once a law governing their activities shall have been passed.

Lim said REITs that may be listed could boost market activity and expand products in the real estate market.

With income derived mainly from rent, REITs must distribute at least 90 percent of their income as dividends to their stockholders. An REIT also tends to offer higher yields.

In Singapore, for instance, its first REIT is the CapitaMall Trust (CMT), a mixture of suburban retail malls and a specialized information technology retail center. Another REIT, the Ascendas REIT (A-REIT) consists of a pool of industrial and business park buildings.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Atlas Mining subsidiary eyes foreign share listing

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CARMEN COPPER CORP., A SUBSIDIARY OF mining giant Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., is keen on a possible public listing next year on either the Toronto Stock Exchange in Canada or the London Stock Exchange, Atlas chair Alfredo Ramos said.

Ramos stressed that a decision on the planned listing has yet to be finalized. Carmen Copper carries Atlas' copper mining-related assets in Toledo, Cebu.

Ramos explained that the company has not qualified with the Philippine Stock Exchange's profitability requirements as of this time since Carmen Copper has not started mining operations.

Proceeds of a proposed initial public offering will partly finance the reopening of the Toledo mines in Cebu that Atlas Mining closed in 1994 after it was beset by a mudslide, low world copper prices and huge debts.

Atlas Mining is bent on reopening its copper mines in Toledo City and in developing its other copper assets through its newly formed unit, Carmen Copper.

Formerly controlled by the Soriano group, which also ran blue chip firms like beverage and food conglomerate San Miguel Corp. and integrated paper manufacturer Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines, Atlas Mining fell under the control of creditors in 1994.

Alakor Corp., headed by businessman Alfredo Ramos, has acquired majority control of the Toledo mines, with Atlas Mining unloading a big chunk of its obligations in a debt-for-equity swap with Alakor and Minoro Mining and Exploration Corp.

Philippine mining has been gaining foreign investor interest after the Supreme Court upheld a law that allows foreign ownership of mining projects.

MPC drops tollway bid, eyes power sector

From page B1

Indonesian firm P.T. Citra Lamtoro Gung Persada and PNCC, controls the Skyway. MPC has a 10-percent stake in the company and has offered to take control from the Indonesians.

The 9.3-km Skyway runs from the Magallanes subdivision in Makati City to Bicutan, and can be extended by another six to seven kilometers to Alabang. Pangilinan had said that before MPC could offer to extend the Skyway, South Luzon Expressway has to be developed first all the way to Calamba town, outside Metro Manila.

During the roundtable with the INQUIRER Business section, Pangilinan also said that MPC remained keen on bidding for the 25-year National Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession, although it was a bit wary of some things that the winning concessionaire would have to face, including non-ownership of Transco's assets and the five-year rate reset period.

"We're looking at it now, yes. But we don't know yet (whether or not we'll go ahead and join the auction). It's one of those things that we dread, we fear because you are firmly embedded with government. You don't own the assets," he said.

"You pay 25 percent (of the bid price), and you owe them the 75 percent, and yet you own no asset. So you have got an equity of 25 percent, debt of 75 percent, but where are the assets? It's all goodwill, isn't it?" he added.

Another thing worth considering, he said, was that transmission wheeling rates, the main source of revenue for the Transco concessionaire, were covered by five-year regulatory reset periods, which meant that rates could not be changed during that timeframe.

The regulatory risk was then quite high, he said.

"What if they don't increase the tariffs or what if they delay? What do you do? You can't switch off the system. Otherwise there's no electricity in this country," he said.

Generally, though, he said MPC still saw Transco as a good business.

For one, he noted that it was a monopoly. Also, it could be expected to post further growth, particularly as demand for power also increases.

He said the company continued to review its options with regard to Transco, and with it came ongoing discussions with possible technical partners—"a number of power companies from abroad, from a broad range of nationalities."

MPC has until July 18 to submit its expression of interest to bid for the 25-year Transco concession.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 30, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	32	31	31	371,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	50	47	50	3,532,900
China Banking Corp.	870	870	870	870	30
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,590,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	72.5	73.5	72	73.5	301,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	34	32.5	34	3,309,500
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	54	54	54	54	100
Philippine National Bank	33.5	34	33.5	34	3,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	18	44,500
Security Bank Corp.	43	46	43	45	157,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	42.5	45	42.5	45	14,600
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1690	1690	1690	1690	20
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2060	2110	2060	2110	3,000
Ivantage Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	1,653,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	43	42	43	490,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	45	43.5	45	527,300
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.75	14.25	14.5	109,900
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	22.5	21.5	22.25	3,087,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.3	7.5	7.2	7.5	6,440,000
Petron Corp.	3.75	3.9	3.7	3.9	6,114,000
Trans-Asia Oil AND Energy	0.91	0.93	0.91	0.91	570,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	50,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	37,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31.5	31	31	494,000
Pancake House Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	59,000
San Miguel Pure Foods A	60	60	60	60	100
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	395,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65.5	96,400
San Miguel Corp. B	72.5	73	72.5	73	210,200
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	776,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	3,090,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.4	1.4	3,521,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.6	4.35	4.6	178,000
CHEMICALS					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	4,100,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Ayala Corp.	370	372.5	357.5	370	390,100
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	969,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	500
AJO Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.88	1.9	1.86	1.86	2,976,000
APC Group Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	1,320,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.04	880,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.8	3,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	17,310,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.75	310,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.75	2,144,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.8	6	5.8	6	559,000
Medco Holdings	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	10,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	600,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	40,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	6,200,000
SM Investments Corp.	216	219	213	214	101,230
South China Resources Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	140,000
Seafront Resources Corp	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.75	300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.5	18,246,200
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.06	20,391,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	7,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,790,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.9	1.96	2,669,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.57	0.57	18,530,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	10,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.28	1.32	14,220,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	15,000
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.006	0.0038	0.0055	18,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.44	1.48	33,994,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	5,760,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	9.9	10.25	9.9	10.25	98,000
SM Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.8	7.4	7.8	6,197,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.75	14.25	14.75	75,500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.24	5,770,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	915	930	915	930	92,340
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	5,068,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1800	1830	1800	1830	202,480
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	1,560,000
Ionics Inc.	2.12	2.14	2.1	2.14	508,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	68,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.6	45,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	2,925,100
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	50,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.56	1.4	1.42	56,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	12,520,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	500,000
EDUCATION					
iPeople Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	48,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2	2	1.98	1.98	209,000
Paxys Inc.	11	12	10.75	12	901,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	128,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.9	8	7.8	7.9	3,596,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.29	16,930,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	11,280,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	73,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	43,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	623,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.1	4.25	4.05	4.25	11,971,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.1	4.25	4.05	4.25	18,674,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28.5	28	28.5	110,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	800,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	110,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,780,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	97,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.22	664,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.24	554,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.75	676,800
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	319,700

CURRENCIES

July 2, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.790576	1.000000	53.5870
Japan	Yen	0.006863	0.008681	0.4652
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444067	1.826600	97.8820
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101783	0.128745	6.8991
Switzerland	Franc	0.638591	0.807754	43.2851
Canada	Dollar	0.711782	0.900333	48.2461
Singapore	Dollar	0.496906	0.628536	33.6814
Australia	Dollar	0.578245	0.731422	39.1947
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.097075	2.652590	142.1443
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210859	0.266716	14.2925
Brunei	Dollar	0.495348	0.626566	33.5758
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020569	0.026018	1.3942
UAE	Dirham	0.215252	0.272272	14.5902
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.264900	67.7822
ArgentinaPeso	0.256265	0.324149	17.3702	
Brazil	Real	0.358327	0.453248	24.2882
Denmark	Kroner	0.134080	0.169598	9.0882
India	Rupee	0.017138	0.021678	1.1617
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214539	0.271370	14.5419
Mexico	New Peso	0.069923	0.088445	4.7395
New Zealand	Dollar	0.471030	0.595806	31.9275
Norway	Kroner	0.126238	0.159678	8.5567
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013138	0.016618	0.8905
South Africa	Rand	0.108895	0.137741	7.3811
Korea	Won	0.000823	0.001041	0.0558
Sweden	Kroner	0.108330	0.137026	7.3428
Syria	Pound	0.015230	0.019264	1.0323
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024325	0.030769	1.6488

Gov't picks financial adviser for sale of Philpost stake

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAPPED PRICEWATERHOUSECoopers as financial adviser for the privatization of Philippine Postal Corp.

The Privatization Management Office said the financial adviser would determine the best way to privatize the government's 55-percent share in Philpost.

The government fully owns Philpost, but the Postal Service Act of 1992 mandates the sale of 55 percent of its 100-percent interest. The government was not able to privatize the postal service immediately because of its poor financial position.

Officials involved in the government's privatization program, however, said Philpost had already posted a financial turnaround and that it was now attractive to investors.

After suffering from losses in previous years, Philpost registered a net income of P99 million in 2004.

Authorities were earlier considering the sale of the 55-percent stake either an initial public offering or a direct sale. They initially preferred a direct sale, although the final mode of privatization would be determined based on a study to be conducted by the financial adviser.

The government intends to sell Philpost this year.

The plan to sell Philpost is in line with the government's policy of getting out of businesses that could be best handled by the private sector.

If sold to a private investor, Philpost is expected to be able to improve its technological capability

GOV'T/B10

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1	Melborne	19	33	52
4	UQ	19	31	50
5	Adelaide			
5	Deakin			
7	Monash			
7	USA			

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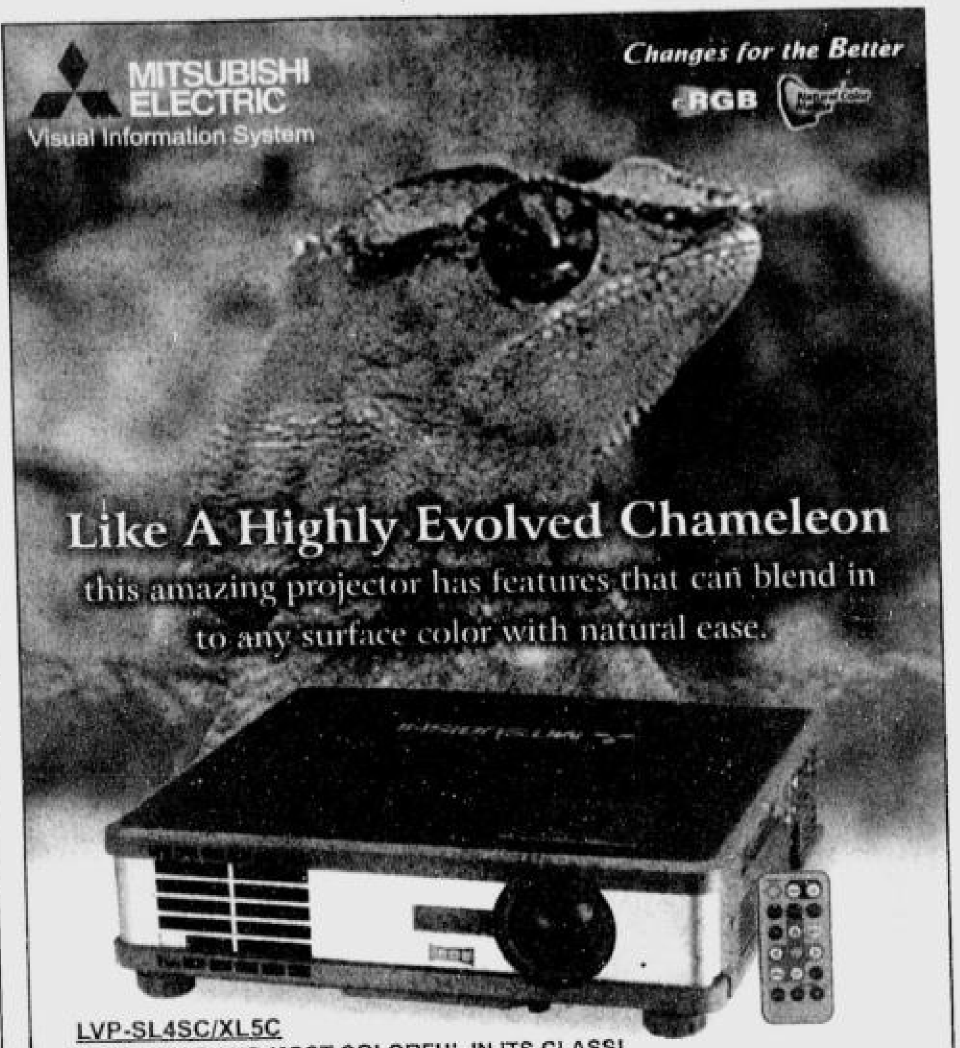

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Perks withdrawal seen doing more harm than good

3G ventures not expected to yield profits over medium term, says Pangilinan

By Daxim L. Lucas
and Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEphone Co.'s (PLDT) venture into third-generation (3G) mobile network technology is expected to remain unprofitable over the medium term before it can yield decent returns, according to the firm's chairman.

Despite this, however, the company is firmly committed to the system and to efforts to find so-called "killer applications" that will help the company develop a critical mass of subscribers among mobile phone users.

"For 3G, we will make money only by the fourth year, at the earliest," PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said in a roundtable discussion with INQUIRER editors and reporters last Friday night.

Apart from the development of "killer applications," he said the depth of the technology's market penetration would also depend on how fast cell phone makers could reduce their handset prices.

"We are already beginning to see prices come down," he said.

Pangilinan's comments about the prospects of 3G came amid calls from lawmakers for the government to withdraw tax perks granted to mobile phone firms for their investments in 3G—a technology that will allow cell phone users to make video calls, watch television and video content on their phones, and surf the Internet at broadband speeds.

The trade department's Board of Investments has granted tax breaks to PLDT's Smart Communications Inc. and its rival Globe Telecom Inc.

Pangilinan declined to reveal how much his company would save from the tax breaks, saying it "would not be significant" considering that the venture was not expected to post profit at least in the first three years of its operations.

ABOUT 150,000 of Smart's 20 million subscribers now have 3G-capable handsets, some already using 3G service.

Globe Telecom earlier said it was expecting to save up to P2.5 billion in tax payments spread over a six-year period from the BOI-administered incentive package. The company expects to spend P5.5 billion for its 3G infrastructure and services.

Pangilinan explained that PLDT was expected to benefit from two components of the BOI's incentives package. One is the duty-free importation of capital goods—a benefit that PLDT already enjoys at present—while the other is the six-year tax break for income derived from the business.

The PLDT chair said his company would not really be able to benefit from the income tax holidays given the projection that the 3G business would be unprofitable for at least the first three years of its operation. This also means the government will not be able to collect income taxes from the phone firms even if the tax break was removed.

Pangilinan said the withdrawal of the perks would just result in another perception problem for the country.

"It would involve changing laws again, which means changing the rules midstream," he said.

Even if the incentives were withdrawn, however, Smart Communications is seen pushing through with its P33-billion 3G venture, although the project implementation and the infusion of the investments might take a longer period.

The withdrawal of the perks, he said, might force phone companies to stretch their investment timetable. This, he added, would translate to more expensive services for end users.

Pangilinan said about 150,000 of Smart's 20 million subscribers now have 3G-capable handsets, some already using 3G services.

The company is trying to pattern its 3G business model after the system used by PLDT shareholder NTT DoCoMo in Japan, where there are 22 million 3G users among the phone firm's 50 million subscribers.

At present, Japan is the only market where 3G has taken off but, Pangilinan said, the technology was starting to take off in other countries, including South Korea.

Based on its application with the Board of Investments, the company had assumed that 3G subscribers would grow steadily from half a million on the first year of the project implementation to 6.8 million by the sixth year.

In the same period, revenues are expected to grow from P900 million to P28.1 billion, while capital expenditure is seen tor each an average of P5.4 billion a year.

Unfair market realities

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

NEO-LIBERAL ECONOMICS preaches that markets left to themselves achieve better outcomes than what any government could through direct intervention in the economy.

Well, not always. Leaving free market forces unhampered has led the world, and certainly our country, into certain perverse outcomes. Let me cite three examples in our midst.

Great 'unequalizer'

First, because of economic realities, education in this country has failed to be the great equalizer it is supposed to be, but has in fact served as a wedge that perpetuates and even widens the gap between rich and poor.

Children of the rich and powerful in this country, on one hand, get the best quality education from expensive private schools, often abroad. On the other hand, children from poor families are limited to mediocre if not downright substandard education from the public school system—if they are able to attend school at all.

While doing doctoral studies at Harvard University on a scholarship in the 1980s, I noted how most of the other Filipinos studying in that citadel of learning had familiar family names in Philippine business and politics. Years later, as a high government official, I often felt an outsider as I moved in circles where people were mostly either relatives or former classmates in elite schools. The doors into the halls of economic and political power are quite narrow indeed, and the situation is perpetuated by the privileged education that those who are already powerful are able to get. Meanwhile, the rest have had to settle for largely inferior education from public schools or cheaper "diploma mills." And thus is perpetuated the oligarchies that lord it over our economic and political lives, and keep our country perennially underdeveloped.

Cheap money

Market realities in the financial sector are another "unequalizer" in our economy, giving undue advantage to the rich while handicapping the poor. Large, rich borrowers who can well afford to pay regular market interest rates on their bank loans get the best lending terms (e.g. "super prime rates" for mostly "clean" or uncollateralized loans). However, struggling but otherwise bankable small enterprises and small farmers who need cheap financing the most are charged the highest rates by the banks, under rigid requirements for collateral—if the banks lend to them at all.

The big and rich get the best deals because banks consider them better credit risks. But are they really? Aren't most of the nonperforming loans still burdening our banks those that were made by big businesses? And aren't the microfinance programs dealing with small entrepreneurs consistently showing close to 100 percent repayment rates?

The other reason banks favor bigger borrowers is their preference for fewer larger transactions over numerous small ones. But the current rush by banks into lucrative consumer credit is actually bringing them into the latter mode. And with automation reducing the need for face-to-face banking transactions with depositors, more bank staff time can be freed up to attend to smaller borrowers.

Digital divide

The third "unequalizer" is information and communication technology (ICT). On one hand, the rich who can easily afford to buy computers and Internet subscriptions can take full advantage of the benefits of ICT and the Internet, and use them as an instrument for creating and amassing more wealth. The poor who are unable to buy even their basic needs, much less computers, on the other hand, are getting left behind by the Information Age. With all the Internet cafes around, we may think that Filipinos have become an Internet-savvy people, but statistics show we continue to be way behind our close neighbors in this.

The result is the so-called digital divide, where the gap is growing between the ICT haves and the ICT have-nots. The phenomenon applies both among countries and among people within individual countries, and is a problem that has been recognized and is of concern to the United Nations, among others.

Bridging the gap

I have seen a study showing that the actual cost to society of providing public education per pupil in the Philippines has been much higher than the corresponding cost per pupil in a private school. And yet the same study showed the average performance of private school pupils to be far superior. Clearly, the problem is one of management, and not necessarily of inadequate resources. Public education need not be inferior to private education; we only need to ensure that the public funds going to it are spent well. The digital divide can be bridged if public ICT facilities are provided in every *barangay*, in the same way that the King's Royal Projects in Thailand are providing an Internet station in every village of that country. As for unequal access to credit, what is needed is a change in mindset and a change of heart among bankers themselves. Credit for SMEs and for the poor are not necessarily the bad investments that bankers have always presumed them to be.

In all three cases, the unfair market realities we have described above need not be inevitable.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Napocor reducing rate in Visayas

By Abigail L. Ho

CUSTOMERS OF NATIONAL POWER Corp. in the Visayas grid will enjoy a rate reduction of 13.95 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh), following the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of the state firm's sixth generation rate adjustment mechanism (Gram) for the grid.

According to Napocor, the reduction will be reflected in the deferred accounting adjustment (DAA) portion of its customers' bills.

The lower DAA brings down Napocor's effective selling rate to P3.2259 per kWh from P3.3654 per kWh for the June billing cycle.

End-users will start enjoying the lower rates in the July billing cycle due to the one-month difference between the billing periods of Napocor and those of its power distributor-customers.

Under the automatic generation rate adjustment (Agra), power distributors can recover their generation-related costs sans prior approval from the ERC. This means they can automatically pass on their savings in their next billing cycle.

But the full 13.95-centavos-per-kWh savings will only be passed on to end-users if a distribution utility or electric cooperative is getting its entire supply requirement from Napocor.

Only a portion of the savings will be reflected in the end-users' monthly bills if their power distributor gets part of its requirement from another supplier.

Napocor attributed its lower DAA to improved economic dispatch of power plants as well as increased energy sales.

The approved sixth Gram DAA of 32.03 centavos per kWh replaced the state firm's fifth Gram DAA of 45.98 centavos per kWh beginning in the June billing cycle, or from May 26 to June 25.

This will continue for the next five months or until a new Gram DAA is approved by the ERC.

Under the ERC-approved implementing rules on the Gram and the incremental currency exchange rate adjustment, the inclusion of the DAA in Napocor's monthly billings to its customers will enable it to either recover or refund deferred incremental costs or savings on fuel, purchased power and foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations on a quarterly basis via DAA applications.

SGS sees 40% sales growth

SGS PHILIPPINES INC., THE PHILIPPINE affiliate of the Geneva-based Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS) Group, said it was expecting a 40-percent growth in sales this year as it launched its new $2 million worth of laboratory facilities in the country.

SGS Philippines recently opened consumer testing services laboratories in Makati City and Cebu City. It also has operations in the Subic Bay Freeport.

In a recent press conference, SGS Philippines managing director Rosario Cajucom-Bradbury said the investment "is an affirmation of our confidence in and support for Philippine business."

Bradbury said that based on company projections, this year's monthly sales might hit P25-P30 million from an average of about P20 million a month last year.

She said the company was seeing bright prospects in the minerals and mining, and the consumer sectors.

SGS also has arrangements for onsite laboratory testing projects under build-operate-transfer schemes.

SGS Phils. Inc., which has been in the country since 1949, recently set up a laboratory in Rapu-Rapu, Albay after it was tapped by the Lafayette Group to establish testing facility and conduct required assessment on the Rapu-Rapu mining project. SGS spent P25 million to put up a testing center in the area.

It also has onsite facility for Quezon Power Philippines.

Revenues from onsite services account for about 50 to 60 percent of SGS' business in the country, she said.

"Our investment in the new laboratories in the Philippines is in response to the growing demand for such services from local industries that wish to conform with international standards and become globally competitive," she said.

Aside from SGS Phils., SGS also operates the 250-man SGS Gulf Ltd. in Citibank Center also in Makati. The regional hub, which operates 24/7, provides report generation such as trade assurance services for SGS' global network's regional and international clients. All told, SGS' operations in the Philippines employ about 500 people.

Domestic liquidity expands by 12.7%

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEMAND FOR MONEY STRENGthened in May as domestic liquidity expanded year-on-year by 12.7 percent from the revised 10 percent annual growth in April, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported.

Last May's domestic liquidity, also known as m3, grew 3.7 percent on a month-on-month basis.

"The improvements in the BSP's net international reserves, which were brought about by reduced foreign liabilities and the accumulation of foreign assets, helped sustain the expansion in domestic liquidity," the BSP said.

The BSP explained that the increase in the banks' net foreign asset position, which was mainly due to a reduction in their foreign liabilities, also contributed to the liquidity growth.

"The growth in credits to the public sector, particularly to LGUs, in the form of loans and investments also helped expand domestic liquidity," it noted.

Domestic liquidity is an indicator of the total supply of money in an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

The foreign assets of the monetary system are mainly in the form of investments in foreign currency-denominated securities of the banks and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. In this regard, the inflows of dollars—such as remittances from overseas Filipino workers which are sold to the banking system— are also a big boost to the net foreign assets position.

An expansion in net domestic credits depends on the market's borrowing appetite.

"The BSP will continue to closely monitor the level of domestic liquidity to ensure that it will remain consistent with the BSP's price stability objective," central bank officials said.

"The overall monetary policy stance will remain geared toward ensuring that all emerging risks to inflation and inflation expectations are addressed in a timely and appropriate manner. "Monetary authorities will continue to provide an appropriate environment that will promote increased credit activities while watching out for further pressures on consumer prices," the central bank said.

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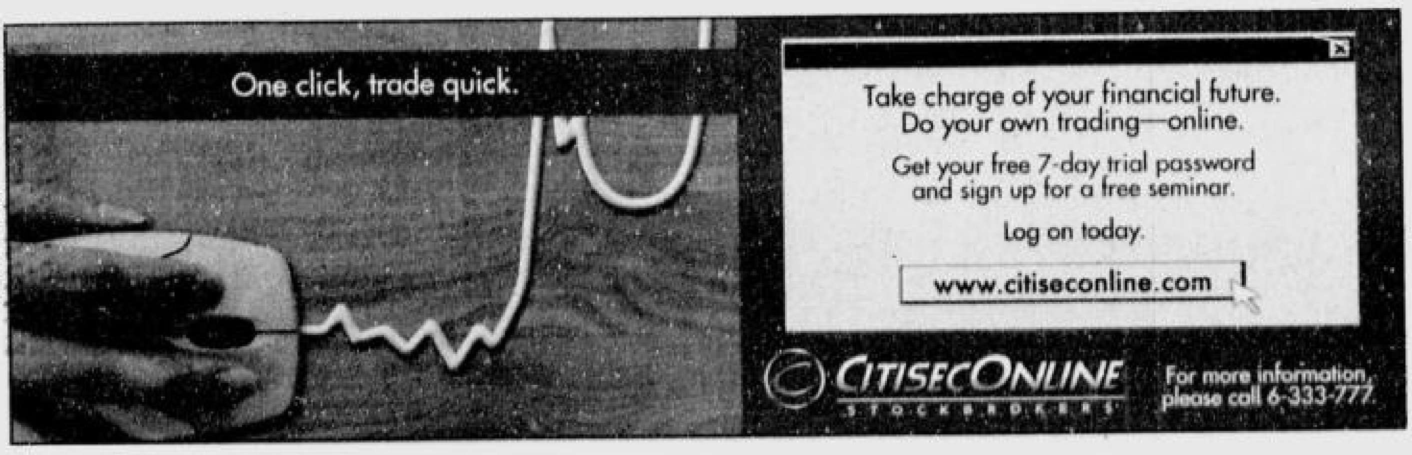
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Gov't moves to ease burden of exporters

Finance, DTI eye removal of fees

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO TEVES said the Department of Finance was amenable to proposals seeking the removal of various fees imposed on exporters to help develop the export industry.

Teves said a technical working group—composed of the DOF, the Department of Trade and Industry and the National Tax Research Center (NTRC)—would meet and decide soon on the proposed withdrawal of fees. Initial discussions seemed to favor the approval of the proposal, he said.

"We can get rid of those fees. The impact on government revenue would not be significant, but we think it could be a big help to exporters," Teves told reporters at the sidelines of the 84th anniversary celebration of Isla Lipana & Co. held in Makati City last week.

Estimates showed that the removal of the export fees would result in some P30 million in foregone government revenue.

While importers are charged duties on shipments brought into the country, exporters are required to pay several fees, including those charged for inspection and clearance, before they can ship out their products.

Donald Dee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the support of the DOF on the proposed lifting of export fees was a welcome development. Besides lowering the cost of doing business for exporters, Dee said the proposal would help simplify the export procedures.

The lifting of export fees would primarily benefit small players in the export industry, as many big exporters, particularly those located in economic zones, are already exempted from such fees.

Teves said measures that could help businesses but would not significantly hurt government revenues, were among the things that the DOF would not hesitate to support.

Yehey prepares for IPO in 2007

PHILIPPINE SEARCH ENGINE YEHEY.COM IS preparing for a possible initial public offering next year through aggressive efforts to return to profit, officials said.

Yehey president Donald Patrick Lim said Yehey's sales had increased by 20 percent in the first five months this year, boosted by online advertisements from large clients in Singapore. He said he was expecting Yehey to be "back in the black" by next year.

Ivantage Corp., Yehey's parent firm, said in a statement that it was positioning Yehey as the primary Filipino portal for online advertisements and e-commerce payment deals.

Yehey recently received P27.9 million in cash from iVantage for the portal's expansion plans.

Yehey plans to transform itself into a full-scale online marketing solutions provider from being an online advertising medium.

Yehey was founded in 1996 by college friends as a search engine. The company's bread and butter is online advertising. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GOINGS-ON

La Salle GSB program for artists bags award

THE DE LA SALLE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS Graduate School of Business was recently named one of the top winners in the Panibagong Paraan Project Grant competition sponsored by the World Bank and other funding agencies. Panibagong Paraan is the country's largest and most unique bazaar of innovative ideas for promoting development and equity.

One of more than 900 entries, DLSPS GSB's entry, Culture Cooperative for Rural Artists, was chosen as one of the six recipients of the project grant given by the World Bank. The entry is a partnership between DLSPS GSB and the Artists Guild of Santa Maria (Agos), an organization of 25 visual artists based in Santa Maria, Bulacan. Agos serves as a pilot group for culture cooperativism in the country.

The concept of culture cooperativism recognizes the value of helping talented artists help one another to form a sustainable way to economic empowerment.

Culture Cooperative for Rural Artists addresses Agos' limited access to financial resources and markets.

Model companies

VICTORIA COURT bagged three major awards in the Department of Trade and Industry's Pro-Active Programs Achievement Award-Search for Model Companies 2006.

The awards proved that the company had established itself as a premiere drive-in hotel in the country.

The Search for Model Companies is an annual quest for outstanding companies that have distinguished themselves in the field of employer-employee relations, quality of service and production, and customer relations. Victoria Court won the Labor Management Relations award, Family Welfare/Community Relations award, and the Quality and Productivity award. Other winners are Zuellig Pharmaceutical, Universal Robina Corp. and GMA 7.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Makati Cinema Square Condominium Corporation supports the efforts of Start Cinema, Star Records and the government against intellectual property piracy.

Makati Cinema Square Condominium Corporation fully believes in the cause of Star Cinema and Star Records and it is taking positive steps towards this end. The use, sale and distribution of pirated Star Cinema and Star Records products is illegal and must be put to a stop.

Pirated products are bad for business and the Philippine economy. Makati Cinema Square Condominium Corporation urges the public to respect intellectual property rights.

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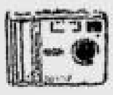
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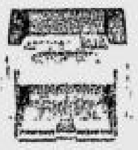
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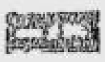
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SSS proposes changes in computing members' contributions

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) plans to raise the maximum salary base for computing the required contributions from members and their employers to the pension fund.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Corazon dela Paz said the proposal was meant to ensure stability of the fund and to improve future benefits of members.

There are several salary bases used in computing the required contributions to the fund. The required amount of contribution stands at 9.4 percent of the salary base applicable to a member.

Currently, the maximum salary base is P15,000. This means employees who earn P15,000 a month, or any amount beyond that, should have a monthly contribution to the SSS equivalent to 9.4 percent of P15,000.

Of the 9.4-percent required contribution, two-thirds is shouldered by the employer while the remaining one-third is shouldered by the employee covered by the social security.

Raising the maximum salary base would mean an increase in the required contributions either by the employers alone, or both the employers and the employees. But initially, the SSS is looking at asking employers to fully shoulder the proposed increase.

"We have to make people appreciate the need to increase contributions because this will have an impact on future benefits," De La Paz told reporters at the sidelines of the 84th anniversary celebration of auditing firm Isla Lipana & Co. held in Makati City last week.

De La Paz said increasing the maximum salary base was a friendlier alternative proposal to the original suggestion of increasing the required percentage contribution of 9.4 percent.

She said the first proposal was deemed burdensome both by employers and employees.

The SSS was earlier looking at raising the required percentage contribution to 16 percent, and then eventually to 22 percent, to comply with the suggestions of an actuarial study.

The study said contributions should be raised to 22 percent to make the SSS pension fund viable.

But De La Paz said that President Macapagal-Arroyo still has not decided whether to approve the proposal, which is perceived to be highly unpopular.

The SSS chief said, however, that based on initial talks between the SSS and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the business group did not oppose the proposed hike in the maximum salary base.

She said that the PCCI found the proposal more acceptable than the original, although she stressed that the business group has yet to state its final position on the matter.

The SSS earlier announced that, under a status-quo scenario, the life of its fund would last until 2031.

Europe, Japan threaten emerging markets

Expected increase of key rates seen to be a thorn in RP's side

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONCERNS OVER FURTHER money tightening in the United States may have piped down for now, but other events are beginning to unfold in Europe and Japan, which are expected to draw offshore investors' attention away from emerging markets like the Philippines.

"The Fed is unsure over what it will do next," according to the London-based global economics unit of American Express Bank, which added that the markets last week had calmed down after moving too far ahead "by pricing an August rate hike as another virtual certainty."

"But events elsewhere—with the European Central Bank still very hawkish and Japan set to raise rates—could impact markets and risk aversion, regardless of what the Fed may or may not do," Amex said in a commentary after the Fed meeting on Friday.

Amex said the probability of the US Federal Reserve's pricing of another overnight rate hike on Aug. 8 had now dropped back to 60:40 from an 85:15 call earlier last week.

Amex said the Bank of Japan would likely raise rates by a quarter-percentage point during its meeting on July 14, and then hike rates at a pace of a quarter-point per quarter, in line with current market expectations.

"Rate hikes may spook equity market investors in Japan for a while," Amex said. "But it will take a long time—one to two years—to get to even the bottom of a 2-4 percent 'neutral' range. Japan's high savings also mean that the overall economic impact of rates moving up should be stimulatory and positive, not negative."

The banking giant said it could not rule out an ECB rate hike next week, but it would most likely stay on hold.

"Euro-zone data remains strong and ECB rhetoric has stayed hawkish," it said. "Some ECB members may want to get to a 'neutral' 3-4 percent range [from the current 2.75 percent now] very quickly ... an August hike looks most probable."

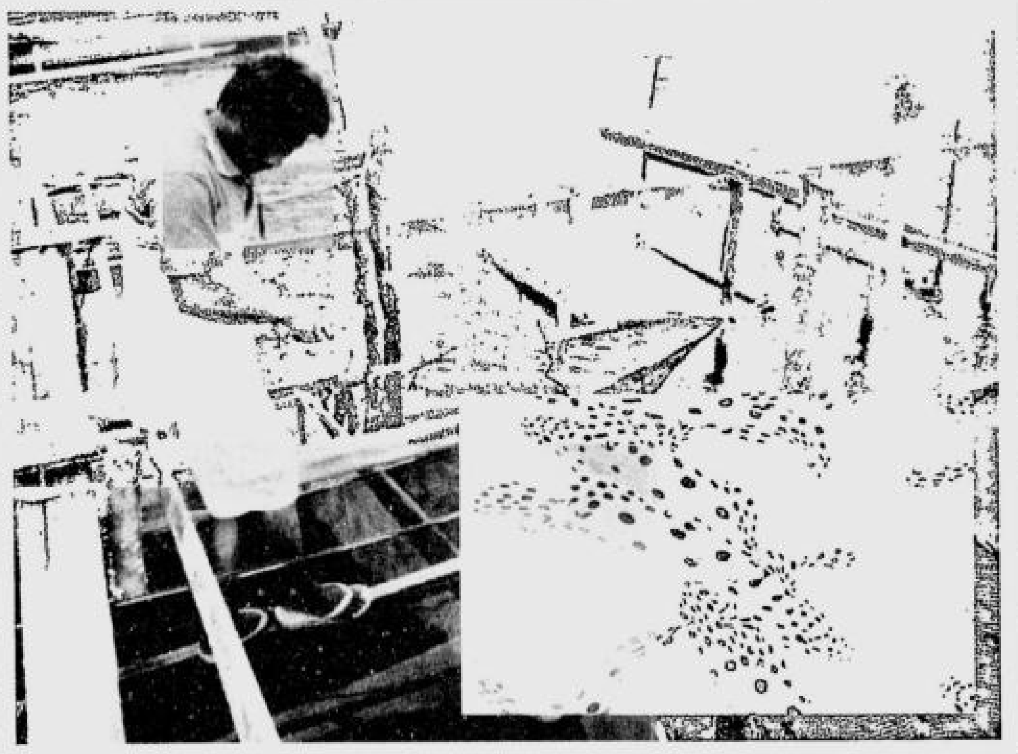
The statement issued by the Federal Open Market Committee on Friday produced a powerful reaction boosting stocks and bonds, and hammering the US dollar.

Amex said there were three important notes to what the Fed had said:

- The US central bank has more confidence now that the US economy is slowing down, a development it believes may help contain inflation;
- Their comments on the inflation outlook were still hawkish or biased towards tightening, but the Fed didn't highlight anything new, and toned down the inflation concerns expressed in earlier statements; and,
- The Fed outlook has become more explicitly tied to what happens to the growth data, as well as inflation data.

"We expect that the economy will slow enough for the Fed to pause from its August meeting," Amex reported. "The Fed would hike again if the slowdown comes through more gradually than they anticipate, or if core monthly consumer price inflation and core personal consumption expenditure—their preferred inflation measure—moves up significantly."

"Overall, we expect a mild US slowdown ... a Fed pause over the summer, if it happens, won't necessarily mean the end of rate hikes."



FEEDING TIME

Maing Anji, leader of the Calang-canas Seaweed Growers Association in Maluso, Basilan, feeds 350 humpback groupers (inset) provided under USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program. Anji is a former member of the Moro National Liberation Front. He and other members of the association underwent training in high value fish aquaculture. A live humpback grouper weighing a kilo can go for as much as P3,000. The Mindanao Economic Development Council oversees the implementation of the GEM Program in the region.

Authorities may decide to transfer UITF regulation from BSP to SEC

THE FUROR ON UNIT INVESTMENT trust funds (UITFs) may have died down, but one question keeps popping up: Should the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas continue regulating the pooled funds, or should this responsibility be turned over to the Securities and Exchange Commission?

BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Nestor Espenilla Jr. said the possible transfer of UITF regulation to the SEC was among the items being discussed under the proposed Revised Investment Companies Act (RICA).

"We need to study that [issue] carefully," Espenilla said. "UITF is a trust, and UITF is placed under the responsibility of the banking industry. We may be open to [the transfer], but it may not be legally possible. Even if it's legally possible, we'll have to study whether it's a wise policy."

According to Mike Ferrer, ING Investment Management regional manager for South Asia, "in other markets, the lines between banking and asset management are more defined."

"In some cases, banks own asset management companies whereas here, it's much more closely linked," Ferrer added.

Asked whether such a transfer was an option, SEC chair Fe Barin replied that "UITFs are covered by a BSP circular."

"[But the possible regulation by the SEC] is something to look at," Barin added, noting that while UITFs and mutual funds may look the same, they were technically different.

Espenilla said that there are no UITFs in the US. In the United States, he said, what they have are mostly mutual funds.

Espenilla said that the regulatory framework there could not be replicated here.

UITFs are pooled trust funds in acceptable currencies operated by a trust entity and made available by participation.

The BSP ordered the phaseout of the common trust funds in favor of the UITFs and exempted these from reserve requirements as they are independent from the bank proper.

When the circular on UITF was being drafted, industry sources said the SEC chair at that time began to question why it was the BSP that should regulate the products.

Ferrer, who is based in Hong Kong, noted that across the globe, the fund management industry is growing faster than bank deposits, with the worldwide average against deposits now hitting 75 percent.

"In the US, since 1994, mutual funds and unit trusts have outgrown the banking system's deposits (with the ratio) now at 150 percent," Ferrer said.

The ING executive said the fund management industry in the US, the oldest in the world, could provide a bit of a roadmap of what could happen.

While the aftermath of the May 2006 UITF selldown seemed bleak, Ferrer said that could prove to be a "net positive" in the sense that it increased awareness on trust fund products, particularly the risks and returns on these products.

Over the long term, Ferrer said, a more liberal investment policy could help UITFs, particularly if the restrictions on the portion allowed to be invested abroad were liberalized, as this would diversify risks and open up opportunity for greater returns.

At the same time, he said the UITF industry would benefit if banks were allowed to engage in securities borrowing and lending or short-selling, allowing them to sell securities which they do not yet have.

Ferrer said the presence of such hedging tools would temper volatility in the local financial markets as it would reduce actual selldown.

Philippine assets held in CTFs and UITFs combined are estimated at only P350 billion or 12 percent of total bank deposits, significantly lower than Singapore's 17 percent, Malaysia's 26 percent, Hong Kong's 88 percent and even Thailand's 13 percent.

"The figures suggest strong growth potentials as investment funds will escalate in importance ... in the years to come," Ferrer said.

Doris C. Dumlao

How increase in First World interest rates affects RP

WHEN UNCLE SAM SNEEZES, Juan dela Cruz catches a cold. This best explains why the peso—which surged to a three-and-a-half-year peak of 50.88:$1 in early March—recently lost its gains against the US dollar.

The Philippines, like other Asian emerging markets badly hit by the currency fallout in 1997, cannot help but feel the pinch of rising interest rates in the First World.

Weighed down over the last two months by concerns on whether the US Federal Reserve would continue its two-year monetary tightening campaign, the peso slid back to where it was at end-2005.

The higher bond yield in the US, as influenced by the series of increases in the US Fed's overnight rates from 1 to 5.25 percent, has lured more global investors back to US dollar assets, drawing appetite away from emerging markets like the Philippines.

For its part, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' overnight borrowing rate has been kept steady at 7.5 percent since October last year, as a favorable outlook on domestic inflation reduces the need to follow the US Fed's cue.

"The benign inflation outlook has largely allowed the BSP to keep the policy rates, but we do recognize upside risks which include high oil prices and rising global interest rates," said BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo. "At the instance that high oil prices start triggering second round effects and [change] inflation expectations, the market can expect decisive action from the BSP."

Will Oswald, JP Morgan head for emerging markets quantitative strategy, said compared to emerging market regions in eastern Europe and Latin America, Asia was the most closely tied to the behavior of US interest rates.

"It's partly because of trade," the London-based Oswald told the INQUIRER. "Asia has a larger amount of trade with the US.

"If you look at Asia, interest rates are much lower than the US, so the sensitivity (of tightening) is felt much higher in Asia."

But economic managers are hoping that the apparent shift in market appetite away from emerging markets—which had prompted Philippine issuers like state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines to abort offshore bond offerings—would be temporary and that Philippine assets would become attractive in the long run.

"It may be more attractive now for capital to move to the US, but I'm hoping the market will normalize," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said. "If we continue to improve on our market fundamentals, the Philippines would be among the countries [investors would strongly] consider if they decide to move back their capital to emerging markets."

Doris C. Dumlao

Chicken exporters seen to cash in on Japan trade

CASHING IN ON JAPAN'S PEAK demand for the period, Philippine poultry exports have resumed shipments to that country with the delivery of 9 metric tons, an industry official said.

Cleared of the deadly avian flu, Philippine poultry exporters led by agribusiness firm San Miguel Foods Inc. have shipped to Japan a 20-cubic foot container van filled with frozen deboned chicken fillet and other choice cuts, according to Philippine Poultry Exporters Board chair Ruben Pascual.

"For the next three months, there will be a deluge in demand in Japan and we hope to take advantage of this opportunity," Pascual told the INQUIRER.

He said other accredited member-companies from the Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators (Pabi), like RFM Swift Foods Corp., Tyson Agro Ventures Inc., Universal Robina Corp. and Vitarich Corp., are bullish on their export prospects in Japan, which requires 100,000 metric tons of chicken a year.

After learning that Philippine poultry is free of the H5N1—the lethal avian flu strain—Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry gave the go-signal for Philippine companies to export chicken products.

Local companies are now upgrading their facilities to cope with the anticipated huge demand in the coming years, Pascual said.

Philippine poultry exporters are now seeking similar accreditations from Hong Kong and South Korean authorities.

Pascual also said that local companies may soon export to Middle Eastern countries as companies are working on their Halal accreditation.

Christine A. Gaylican

Study: Retirees get better deals here than in other parts of Asia

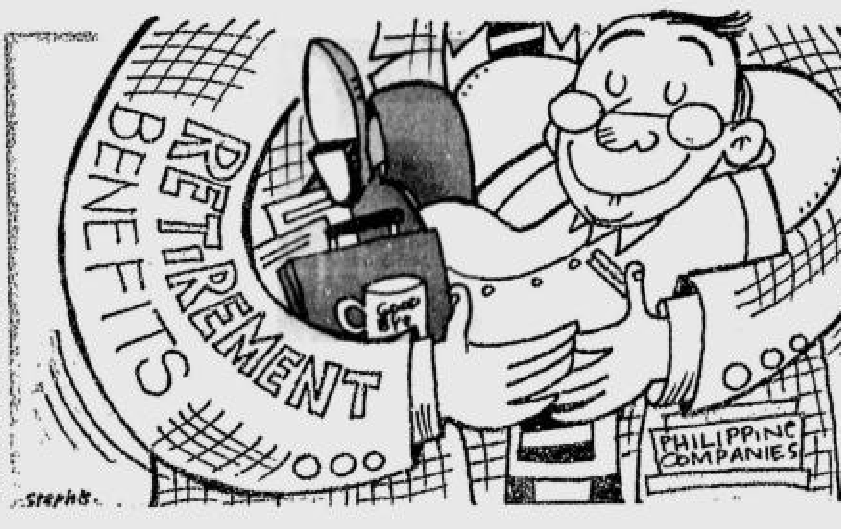


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE COMPANIES HAVE THE highest regard for employees who are about to retire than in other firms elsewhere in Asia, according to a recent study conducted by Watson-Wyatt Worldwide.

Watson Wyatt, a global human capital and financial management consulting services firm, recently conducted a survey involving 2,332 companies in 11 countries, and learned that Filipino companies have provided well for the pension of employees.

Philippine firms voluntary provided for the retirement benefits of its employees, according to Bob Charles, Watson Wyatt Asia-Pacific regional head for retirement benefits practice.

"Out of the 227 companies from top 2,000 corporations surveyed in the Philippines, about 60 percent, or 136 companies, provided supplementary retirement benefits to employees, compared to the 10 to 20 percent of companies based in other Asian countries including China, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia," Charles said in an interview.

He pointed out that those surveyed belong to large local companies with a mix of local and foreign ownership and with at least 100 full time employees.

"These companies saw that part of their catch in retaining high performing employees is to have a very attractive retirement and health benefits package for the employees and their families," Charles said.

According to the survey, Filipino workers aged 50 and above comprise roughly 13 percent of the total population. The number of workers in this age range is expected to grow to 21 percent by 2030, and to 30 percent by 2050. In contrast, the same age group in Japan already comprises 41 percent of its present population, and is seen to expand to 51 percent by 2030.

Charles explained that this presents better opportunities for skilled Filipino workers, which are growing by an annual average of 20 percent.

Inequalities still exist, United Nations says

GENEVA—A RECENT UNITed Nations report said that globalization has failed to close glaring inequalities between rich and poor nations and called for developing countries to be given more space to build up their national economies.

The UN's "2006 World Economic and Social Survey" said that inequalities at the global level had grown sharply in recent decades, once fast growing China and India—which between them account for one-third of the world's population—were left out of the equation.

The report said those developments "are at odds with the conventional economic wisdom regarding how income differentials among countries change over time in a more integrated world economy".

Only a small number of nations have been able to make up the chasm that separates them from wealthy economies despite a belief in the 1980s and 1990s that "giving more space to the global market would lead to a closing of the income gap", it added.

"This did not happen... despite the fact that countries across the globe had opened up their trade and financial systems to the global market," the report by the UN's department of economic and social affairs underlined.

It argued that poorer countries need to be given more opportunity to diversify their commodity-based economies to make them less vulnerable to fluctuations in world prices and shocks in international financial markets.

They should be able to follow the example set by dynamic Asian economies by shifting towards high-tech industrial production and services, the report argued.

"Success in exports is basically associated with what you export, not how much you export," UN Undersecretary General Jose Antonio Ocampo told journalists.

"To stave off collapses such as those felt in the developing world in 1996-1998 and 2000-2002, countries should adopt policies adopted to their national situations, breaking free of lockstep approaches to policy-making," he said.

Developing countries should be allowed to implement support measures for nascent export industries, and be granted more special and differential treatment under World Trade Organization agreements, the report said.

Support measures for exports are normally frowned upon in the WTO. *AFP*

WTO flirts with crisis as trading powers refuse to compromise

Agriculture remains key stumbling block

DEMONSTRATORS depicting US President George Bush (C), British Prime Tony Blair (2nd L), German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R), French President Jacques Chirac (2nd R), and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Zapatero (L) protest in Geneva, in front of the World Trade Organization. Ministers from around 60 key WTO governments will meet for four days of intensive talks. AFP

GENEVA—TRADING POWERS WERE FLIRTing with a crisis Saturday after tough negotiations at the WTO on a crucial step in global trade talks lurched into the weekend without any side willing to give way.

India's Minister of Commerce, Kamal Nath, admitted late in the night that he was ready to fly home Saturday after the G6 group of influential trading powers failed to make progress at World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva.

"There will be no more G6 meeting," said Nath, a key player in the talks, effectively ruling out more immediate bids to bridge the gaps between the 149 nations over agricultural trade and industrial goods.

"We must recognize that we have not been able to move, that there remain major gaps and that there is crisis," he added.

A compromise among the G6 members is regarded as the key to resolving the near five year-old deadlock, because their diverse economic interests are at the heart of disputes in the talks on cutting down barriers to trade by the end of the year.

"The green room will decide what the process will be" after the failure, said Nath, referring to an informal gathering on Saturday of 30 representatives of delegations from the 149 WTO members.

WTO chief Pascal Lamy has tried to coax them individually to give ground as developing and rich countries accused each other of trying to hijack the elusive Doha Round of multilateral trade talks.

Lamy had earlier issued a stern warning, saying governments could no longer afford to duck a deal after missing deadlines in recent years.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim gave a gloomy assessment of the chances of reaching a deal this weekend on the mathematics for cutting subsidies and tariffs.

Amorim, one of the key figures with Nath in the G20 group of emerging and developing nations, acknowledged that a crisis was looming.

But he pointed out that the situation was not unfamiliar at the WTO, and had sometimes helped squeeze a deal out of deadlock.

On Friday, the European Union appeared to inch closer to meeting the demands of Brazil and India on agriculture.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said Brussels was ready to go beyond its existing offer of a 46-percent cut in agricultural tariffs by moving closer to the 54-percent cut proposed by the G20.

But EU negotiators reiterated that other WTO players must offer something in return.

The EU and the United States are demanding deeper cuts in customs duties on imported industrial goods levied by emerging economies

The spotlight was also being turned on the United States to offer deeper cuts in subsidies for its farmers.

The goal of the Doha Round of trade talks, which was launched in the Qatari capital in 2001, is to tear down trade barriers and help developing economies accelerate economic growth.

Negotiations were originally meant to finish in 2004, but the end-date was later pushed back to December 2006. *AFP*

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Prosecutors want Lay, Skilling to pay $183M

HOUSTON—FEDERAL PROSECUTORS WANT ENron corp. founder Kenneth Lay and former Chief Executive Jeffrey Skilling to fork over nearly $183 million in light of their convictions for perpetuating one of the biggest corporate frauds in US history.

In a court filing Friday, prosecutors asked US District Judge Sim Lake to order the newly convicted felons to turn over that amount "in proceeds of the fraud conspiracy," which includes bonuses, Skilling's gains from stock sales, and Lay's use of loans from Enron to pay down his personal debt, once at $100 million.

The government had already intended to seize about $57 million in Skilling's cash and property that have been frozen since he was indicted in February 2004, including his $5.1 million Mediterranean-style mansion in Houston.

Also marked for seizure was Lay's $5 million condominium in one of Houston's most exclusive high-rises.

Lay, 64, and Skilling, 52, were convicted of defauding investors and employees by repeatedly lying about Enron's financial strength in the months before the company plummeted into bankruptcy protection in December 2001. *AP*

US consumer spending slows in May, gov't says

WASHINGTON—CONSUMER SPENDING slowed sharply in May as rising gasoline prices left Americans with less cash for other items, the government reported Friday.

The Commerce Department said that spending rose by just 0.4 percent last month after a 0.7 percent gain in April. Income growth also slowed to an advance of just 0.4 percent last month, reflecting weaker job growth.

The report on personal incomes and consumer spending provided further evidence that the economy slowed sharply in the spring as Americans were battered by rising gasoline prices, higher interest rates and a cooling housing market.

The government reported Thursday that the overall economy raced ahead at an annual rate of 5.6 percent in the January-March quarter, the fastest pace in 2½ years. Analysts believe growth has slowed to just half that amount in the current April-June quarter reflecting a sharp slowdown in consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity. *AP*

Mittal sets sights on China

LONDON—MITTAL STEEL, THE WORLD'S NO. 1 steel company, which agreed a 25.6 billion euro ($32.54 billion) deal to acquire rival Arcelor, has its sights set on further acquisitions in emerging markets, such as China and India, its Chairman Lakshmi Mittal said.

"At this point, we will focus on China and India," Mittal told Reuters in an exclusive interview on Friday, when asked about the group's future acquisition strategy.

Mittal was speaking hours after Arcelor's shareholders rejected an alternative merger deal with Russian peer Severstal , clearing the way for a combination of the world's two largest steelmakers after a five-month bitter battle.

The Mittal-Arcelor feud has been one of Europe's most politically fraught corporate battles as Arcelor, created from firms in France, Spain and Luxembourg, had previously gone through years of restructuring and job cuts.

Mittal, 56 and one of the world's five richest men, said the combined group would be "at least five years ahead of competition" and spur consolidation across the sector. "It will also pave the way for other steel companies to take this sort of consolidation seriously," he said. *Reuters*

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2.68% +30.11
+45.83
2.65% +22.08
+45.62
+2.56% +31.88
+26.79
+2.48% +33.39
+42.9
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+35.47
45

A WOMAN walks past an electronic board displaying a rise in the Nikkei industry-classified share average in Tokyo. The Nikkei jumped 2.54 percent on Friday to mark its highest close since June 5 on Friday as exporters such as Toyota Motor gained on rising hopes that the US interest rate-hike cycle may be nearing an end, easing concern of a slowdown in the world's largest economy. REUTERS

Oil nears $74

LONDON—OIL ROSE TO NEARLY $74 A BARrel on Friday, within sight of record highs, on a positive outlook for oil demand and economic growth in top consumer the United States.

American drivers are expected to take to the roads in record numbers over the US July 4 holiday weekend, despite high fuel prices. The US economy grew at the fastest rate in 2-1/2 years in the first quarter.

"All the growth numbers have been coming through stronger than expected," said Kevin Norrish, an oil analyst at Barclays Capital. US crude settled 41 cents higher at $73.93 a barrel after closing early ahead of Independence Day holiday.

Metals and other commodities also rallied as investor fears over interest rate rises and a possible weakening of the US economy receded. Copper jumped almost 4 percent in London and gold rose.

"It's money coming back in to all capital markets, after fears the Fed could put the economy into recession," said John Brady of ABN AMRO in New York.

US crude has risen from $20 in January 2002 and hit a record high of $75.35 in April as rising demand strained supplies and investors poured money into commodities.

Prices were drawing strength Friday from the continued closure of a key shipping channel in Louisiana, which has limited output at three refineries at a time of peak summer demand.

Underlining supply concerns caused by recent refinery glitches, US inventories of gasoline fell by 1 million barrels last week, while crude stocks declined 3.4 million barrels.

Iran's row with the West over its nuclear work, which traders fear could cut supplies from the world's fourth-largest oil exporter has also supported prices this year.

The Group of Eight industrialized nations told Iran on Thursday to give a "clear and substantive response" next week to an offer by major powers over its nuclear plans. Tehran said that was unlikely. *Reuters*

Central banks see further credit tightening

Financial markets volatile, analysts say

FRANKFURT—SOFTLY, SOFTLY SEEMS to be the message that central bankers are delivering on the path of global credit tightening that lies ahead.

Financial markets are volatile and the cheap money that sloshed around the global economy after several years of very low interest rates is drying up fast.

Investors and policymakers alike are growing increasingly uncertain about a possible global economic slowdown and whether it can dampen worsening inflationary pressures.

This makes for a combustible mix. One wrong step by central bankers could upset an exceptional period of global expansion.

"I compare it to crossing the river while feeling the stones," Bill White, economic adviser at the Bank for International Settlements, said after meetings with central bankers from around the world last weekend. "You have to do it very, very carefully."

The worry is that if central banks soak up excess cash too rapidly, it will prompt investors accustomed to cheap funding to rush for the exits all at once and cause major financial disruptions.

So far, recent market sell-offs have been welcomed by central bankers as a necessary re-pricing of risk, but they know it could turn disorderly.

Little wonder that the Federal Reserve adopted a cautious tone on Thursday when it raised US rates for the 17th straight policy meeting and signaled that the increases it began two years ago may be near an end.

Similarly the European Central Bank, while it has left no doubt that credit tightening will continue this year, has stuck to a gradual pace.

ECB hawks might be gunning for faster increases but President Jean-Claude Trichet has given no hint so far that he wants to raise the tempo.

The Bank of Japan is poised to start raising interest rates, possibly next month but it too has shown no inclination to rush.

Money still cheap

This unusual period of near-simultaneous central bank tightening has led to global liquidity declining at its fastest rate in six years.

Goldman Sachs calculates that average three-month interest rates in eight major economies have risen 30 basis points over the last quarter, a pace not seen since a 40 basis point rise in mid-2000.

Yet these short-term rates remain way below levels seen in previous cycles. They average 3.5 percent today, which was the midpoint of the 2.2-4.8 percent range during the period of easing from late 2000 to mid-2003, Goldman said.

This would suggest that some more rate tightening remains in store. Morgan Stanley estimates 50 basis points.

Its currency strategist Stephen Jen said in a research note that real short-term rates today are around 1.5 percent, while in the 1990s they averaged 2 percent.

Both investment houses warn that costlier financing could disrupt global investment patterns.

Recent market volatility can be linked to withdrawal of liquidity. Two months after the ECB started raising rates in December, the high-yielding currencies of Iceland and New Zealand were hammered.

Two months after the Bank of Japan in March ended its quantitative easing policy -- under which it flooded the banking system with cash to combat deflation -- major stock indices, gold and other commodities and some emerging markets were hit.

Prospects this month that the Fed could push its key rate as high as 6 per cent—since cooled by its statement on Thursday—coincided with a third wave of selling which has hit emerging mar kets such as Turkey, South Africa an some in central Europe.

The amount of money that can shi when funding costs and risk appetit change is huge.

For instance, Jen estimates that U.S money under management totaled $18. trillion at the end of the first quarter an it was increasingly invested overseas.

That far outstrips the $2.7 trillion i Asian central bank foreign exchange re serves, which has caused so much con cern in recent years over the possibili that a sudden unwinding of dollar hold ings would upset the global economy.

Central banks' focus will remain c controlling inflation, not preventir market losses, in line with their ma dates. But they are also keeping an ey on markets in deciding the pace ar size of future rate moves.

It was a surprise Fed rate rise in 199 that sparked a bond market crash, fo lowed by a Mexican peso debacle. round of central bank tightening al preceded the Asian currency crisis fou years later. Central banks don't want go there again.

Malacañang orders probe of power sale program

PCCI, FPI complain of increased costs borne by industries

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS ORDERED A probe of the One-Day Power Sale program following complaints by industry groups that the "electricity sale" of the National Power Corporation and Manila Electric Co. have not only inconvenienced local manufacturers, but padded their costs as well.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the INQUIRER that he had ordered energy officials to address complaints by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) that the suspension of the ODPS on several occasions has had adverse repercussions on power-intensive industries.

As monitored by the Energy Regulatory Board, the ODPS scheme allows the discounted sale of NPC's unused capacity to self-generating customers, or companies which have their own power plants.

Under the scheme, Meralco handles the purchase of Napocor's surplus capacity for distribution to big customers within its franchise area, which includes Metro Manila.

However, some industries have complained that abrupt cancellation of the ODPS had forced them to run their power plants without adequate preparation.

Worse, ODPS customers unable to operate their generator sets were slapped with additional high demand charges that they they claimed were unfair.

In an interview, Napocor president Cyril del Callar said the fate of ODPS depends on the ERB, especially with the recent launching of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), where big power users can now buy their electricity at market driven prices.

While WESM is now in place, industries are still waiting for clearer guidelines, stressing that while they can source their electricity directly from big power producers, they are still at the mercy of Meralco, which controls the transmission lines in its huge franchise area.

Pending WESM, they also complained that NPC and Meralco seem to be dragging their feet with regards the restoration of ODPS.

Earlier, PCCI president Donald Dee said that inasmuch as ODPS grants discounts to companies, its suspension would impact negatively on power-intensive industries, like cement and steel plants.

"I hope they (NPC and Meralco) would be able to immediately communicate with industries about planned suspensions. They should also be able to say when the ODPS can be implemented again," Dee added.

Business groups claimed that the ODPS cancellations favor Napocor and and Meralco through increased transmission charges because users were charged more for their unplanned high electricity demand. Industry estimates showed that that the cost of ODPS cancellations exceed P20 million a day.

RP questions Malaysia auto policy

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have opposed the non-tariff barriers to vehicle imports imposed by Malaysia, on grounds that this runs counter to efforts toward free trade within the region.

According to officials, Kuala Lumpur was still protecting Malaysia's national cars and other domestic products contrary to rules of the Asean Free Trade Agreement and World Trade Organization.

They said such barriers were laid out in a National Auto Policy that was promulgated last March, despite Asean members having agreed to reduce tariffs on imported completely built vehicles to 5 percent from 20 percent.

The policy requires, for instance, the issuance of approval permits prior to importation.

Malaysia also says that it will only allow the entry of the equivalent of a maximum 10 percent of Malaysia's vehicle production, not counting panel vans, trucks and buses.

A third barrier is the use of customs valuation on imports of completely built units, instead of using the valuation methods provided for in the WTO's General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade.

Finally, the sources said Malaysia's Industrial Adjustment Fund serves to deter vehicle importation despite tariff reduction under AFTA.

With the IAF, the Malaysian government provides support-by way of excise tax credits--to its local industry based on higher levels of local content.

Government support under IAF also provides relatively greater help to large-scale assemblers and exporters, sources said.

They said these barriers primarily hinder shipments from Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand as these make the Malaysian market large closed to Asean imports.

With some 546,000 units sold in 205, Malaysia is the region's second largest auto market and is home to locally assembled vehicles like Proton and Perodua.

RICE is at the center of the economy of Mayaoyao, Ifugao, where one can have a good view of the world famous rice terraces. EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

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Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte

INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expense or loss that the bidder may incur in the preparations of its bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to INEC.

(Sgd.) ROMILLAS C. PASCUAL
General Manager

(PDI – July 1, 2 & 3, 2006)

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 48VDC Power Supply and Microprocessor

[Reference No.: PB060504-EL0079]

1 The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region* (TRANSCO-HO) through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of *Php 18,655,000.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 48VDC Power Supply and Microprocessor**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Power Supply & Microprocessor*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting **July 3, 2006 to August 6, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)***. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

5 The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **July 19, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at same address below. Requests for clarification on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-bid Conference

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 p.m. of August 7, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	1% of ABC
2 Bank guarantee	1.5% of ABC
3 Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)	2.5% of ABC
4. Foreign government guarantee	100% of ABC

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7 Bid opening shall be on **August 7, 2006 / 2:00 p.m.** at the *Admin Conference Room same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 3 & 10, 2006)

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
Jaro, Iloilo City, Philippines
Tel No 3202431
Fax No (033) 3202623
Email address: univhosp@iloilo.net
"PHIC Accredited Health Care Provider"

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER invites PhilGEPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items.

Item/Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)	End User
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids		
1. Supply Delivery and Installation of One (1) lot of Radiologic/ Diagnostic Equipment namely a. Whole Body CT Scan System, Multi Slice (1 set) b. Ultrasound Machine, 4 probes w/ 3D (1 set) c. Ultrasound Machine, 5 probes w/ 4D (1 set) d. Conventional X-Ray Machine, 500 MA, 150 KV (1 set) e. R/F X-Ray Machine, 800 MA, 150 KV (1 set) On a lease-to-own scheme for a fixed term of five (5) years	P143,000,000.00	July 20, 2006 9 AM Conference Room	August 1, 2006 9 AM Conference Room	P10,000.00	Radiology
2 Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Materials, Supplies and Reagents on Consignment Scheme	P 5,197,393.00	July 17, 2006 9 AM Conference Room	July 28, 2006 9 AM Conference Room	P 2,000.00	Laboratory

The Bid documents shall be available at the West Visayas State University Medical Center Supply Office starting July 17 to July 20, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at West Visayas State University Medical Center Conference Room-Ground Floor, E. Lopez St., Jaro, Iloilo City.

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the above mentioned address.

For more information, please call the West Visayas State University Medical Center Supply Office at telephone numbers (033) 320-2431 to 38 local 223.

West Visayas State University Medical Center reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. West Visayas State University Medical Center further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

Approved by: (Sgd.) ANNA VICTORIA J. SOMBONG, M.D.
BAC Chairman

(PDI–July 3 & 10, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
PDEA Building, NIA Northside Road
National Government Center
Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City 1100

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Bids and Awards Committee is inviting all PNP Accredited Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

Quantity	Nomenclature	Specification	Approved Budget for Contract
100 pieces	caliber .40 pistol	PDEAUESC Resolution for caliber .40 pistol	Php 3,992,980.00
774 pieces	caliber .45 pistol	PDEAUESC Resolution for caliber .45 pistol	Php 20,278,800.00

A pre-qualification and pre-bid conferences will be held at the PDEA Conference Room, PDEA Building, NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Bgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City on July 18 and 21, respectively, both at 10:00 a.m., during which time the PDEA Bids and Awards Committee (PDEA BAC) shall inform the prospective bidders of the requirement for pre-qualification (legal and Technical aspects), distribute copies of the specifications and announce the requirements for eligibility, and the prospective bidders shall submit samples or prototype for inspection, test and evaluation. Application forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the Logistics and Management Service with same address as mentioned above.

The PDEA BAC prefers that the samples or prototype must be accompanied by certification that same had passed the test and evaluation conducted by the PNP DRD Technical Group.

All prospective bidders who have been blacklisted by the government need not apply.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contracts, and other related matters should be in accordance to the provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The PDEA reserves the right to reject any application for eligibility or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) GEN. DIONISIO R. SANTIAGO (Ret)
Sr. Undersecretary/Director General

(PDI - July 3 & 10, 2006)

Casiño's fantasy

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

TEDDY CASIÑO, PARTY LIST REPresentative of Bayan Muna, and my favorite communist (oops, progressive), flashed his boyish charm on a TV talk show the other day.

He talked about the President's decision to spend P1 billion for the Armed Forces to open a final offensive against the NPA. He said that it would be better to spend the money to wipe out injustice, inequality and poverty, which are the root causes of the NPA rebellion.

If Casiño proposes the equality of a communist society where everybody is equally hungry, thanks, but no thanks. If he means the equality of a centrally managed economy, he can have it.

If he refers to the equality of the NPA's revolutionary tax system where everything that moves or grows in the far-flung barrios is taxed 10 percent of market value, I prefer the complicated tax structure of the internal revenue code.

And I would rather go through a tax audit by a BIR examiner than tangle with an NPA terrorist/extortionist gang.

A friend of mine raises rice in Albay. He steadfastly refuses to part with 10 percent of his harvest to the NPA. But he gladly shares the going rate of one-third of whatever any hard-working reaper, NPA or not, brings in. Now, that is equality.

I agree that there is a lot of injustice around. I have said more than once that we have the best justice system—that money can buy. But is Casiño proposing to replace our justice system, flawed as it may be, with the NPA's kangaroo courts? Does he want to install a secret police, too?

As to the problem of poverty, the far-flung barrios terrorized by the NPA grovel in abject poverty precisely because the NPA bleeds the poor folks half to death. Not only that, no investor would like to create jobs in areas terrorized by the NPA.

My friend Atoy closed down his small sari-sari store when the NPA told him to shell out P4,000 every month in fixed revolutionary tax (it was really an excise tax).

There are dozens of countries in the Third World much poorer than the Philippines. These countries do not have a terrorist network like the NPA. Why so? Maybe because we do not massacre communists by the hundreds of thousands, as Suharto did in Indonesia.

Hey, I am not, of course, proposing that the government mounts a pogrom, or even draw up a hit list of communists.

Also, our democratic system has a high threshold of tolerance for the opposition, including communist front organizations like Bayan Muna and Anak Pawis.

The root cause of the communist rebellion is not, repeat, not inequality, injustice, or poverty. The root cause is that Filipino communists like Casiño simply refuse to admit that Communism, as a way of life, has been totally discredited worldwide. The workers' paradise was pure hell.

In Germany, hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds have been spent to bring up the former East Germany to the same level of development as the former West. And there is no end in sight.

What is worse, after 80 years of Communist rule, the East German has become lazy, having been spoiled by communist doleouts.

South Korea has built itself up to be an economic powerhouse. North Korea is teaching its citizens how to eat grass.

Vietnam and the former satellite countries in Eastern Europe are learning to bask in the sunlight of a free and open market economy.

Naturally, communists like Teddy Casñino do not want the government to wipe out the NPA, the terrorist/extortionist fundraiser. But no political party should have been allowed to shoot its way into the House of Representatives.

Teddy Casiño's unending fantasy is that the communist movement here will outlive Philippine democracy. Fat chance.

Our democracy, with all its faults, is strong enough to defend itself even as communists like Teddy Casiño use the rule of law to their advantage.

Teddy Casiño and his fellow communists, in their hard-headedness, refuse to admit that recent world history has proved beyond all doubt that Communism carries within its bosom the seeds of its own destruction.

Gov't picks financial . . .

From page B5

and offer additional services, other than the regular mail delivery.

The sale of state assets is also aimed at raising additional revenue for the government.

The government had targeted to raise P500 million from privatization this year. This target was increased to P2 billion. *Michelle V. Remo*

Naga City discovers Google Earth

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN NAGA CITY have made public its geographic information system (GIS) to allow Google Earth enthusiasts to play around with the information, INQ7.net learned.

Google Earth is free software application that allows people to zoom in on satellite photos of the world. People can literally view any country in the world using this nifty computer program.

The Philippine Makeover blog (http://www.mmmakeover.blogspot.com/) said the Naga City government has challenged people to create Google Earth maps out of the GIS information.

Filipino journalist Roby Alampay and a United States-based Filipino urban planning professional Benjie dela Peña run the blog.

In its latest post, the Philippine Makeover blog noted Naga City has also released a three-dimensional map of the city, which could be viewed on Google Earth.

The local government's GIS information can now be downloaded at http://gis.naga.gov.ph/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Data.

Alampay and Dela Peña said many Filipinos are now discovering Google Earth.

For Philippine history buffs, Google Earth now offers a useful "map" or "KMZs" of sites of the World War II battles fought in the country.

One Google Earth map identifies the exact locations of known volcanoes throughout the archipelago. Two maps also provide complete information on the potential and existing mining sites in the country.

There is now also a Google Earth map at all Philippine airports.

Alampay and Dela Peña said they have started to compile links to all these maps in "Google Earth Philippines" (www.googleearthphilippines.pbwiki.com).

Both are now inviting people to add to its growing list of Google Earth maps.

Naga City was the recent addition to Google Earth Philippines' growing list.

The local government has allowed them access to GIS information that has been used to visualize city data.

"We've just been running crazy with Google Earth now that Metro Manila is being rendered in high-resolution. We've been swapping KMZs (Google Earth markers) until finally we put up the [Google Earth Philippines]. Both are designed to set up a one-stop shop for Google Earth stuff (KMZs, Sketchup models, maps, etc.) for the Philippines," Alampay said in an e-mail.

Google Earth Philippines also includes maps to Metro Manila landmarks, hydroelectric and geothermal plants, world heritage sites in the country, mass transit, intact forests (plotted by Greenpeace), and locations and products of local agrarian reform beneficiaries.

A virtual helicopter tour of the Philippines, courtesy of "Our Awesome Planet" blog of Filipino Anton Diaz, was also added.

The applications of Google Earth Philippines are endless, Alampay continued, as he suggested several ideas on how Google Earth can be used to point out the shrinking "green zones" in cities to local government officials.

Dela Peña and Alampay hope to encourage people to use Google Earth Philippines "to get people talking about urban planning issues."

Both Alampay and Dela Peña have created a blog, dubbed "Great Manila Makeover" (http://mmmakeover.blogspot.com/), which they have renamed Philippine Makeover, to encourage Filipinos to see Philippines in a different light.

"I'm an urban planner and I've been trying to get urban planning issues on the table in Metro Manila—and get people to talk about our built fabric. I was frustrated by the lack of information available online. Then Google Earth updated so the high-resolution telemetry was a big bonus. Roby came up with the idea for the Great Manila Makeover to get people to reimagine the city, which is my passion," said Dela Peña in an online chat.

Ironically, both founders are now living outside the Philippines. Yet they share the vision and dream of rebuilding the country, starting with Metro Manila.

"It's so easy with Google Earth to see that we're one country. It's so easy to link to each other. It's easy to bridge investors with farmers. To point out potential green zones to local officials. At least it's easy to picture it while looking at the country 'from a distance.' Corny but true. If we can picture it, we should be able to do it," added Alampay.

Dela Peña noted that cities are the largest artifacts of civilization.

"We need to understand our cities if we want to understand our culture. To put it another way, the social, political, economic and cultural issues we face all have spatial manifestations—and are shaped by the fabric of our built environment. Like the rest of the world, we are rapidly urbanizing—up to 60 percent according to the last census estimate. When we begin the work of improving our cities, we begin the real work of improving the (day to day) quality of life of our citizens," he stressed.

NTC, private . . .

From page B12

digital in 2015.

By next year, Sarmiento said the NTC expects to accept applications among firms moving to digital TV.

In 2010, he said NTC will no longer accept applications for companies wanting to offer analog TV.

Digital television is a telecommunication system for broadcasting moving pictures and sound by means of digital signals, in contrast to analog signals in analog (traditional) TV. It uses digital modulation data, which is digitally compressed and requires decoding by a specially designed television set or a standard receiver with a set-top box.

Digital television has several advantages over traditional TV, the most significant being use of a smaller channel bandwidth. This frees up space for more digital channels, other non-television services such as pay-multimedia services and the generation of revenue from the sales of frequency spectrum taken by analog TV. There are also special services such as multicasting (more than one program on the same channel), electronic program guides and interactivity.

Digital television often has a superior image, audio quality and better reception than analog. However, it should be noted that digital television picture technology is still in its early stages and there are many advances yet to be made in eliminating picture defects not present on analog television or motion picture cinema.

Microsoft Philippines to open mobile division

Erwin Oliva
Contributor

MICROSOFT PHILIPPINES WILL open a mobile division starting this month, the company's top executive told Infotech.

Microsoft Philippines Managing Director Antonio "TJ" Javier said the still-unnamed mobile division will focus on growing the local subsidiary's market share and "mindshare" in the mobile business.

Javier said people have been hired to man this division but declined to name who these people are.

"This [division] will focus on the handset and applications," the Microsoft Philippines executive added.

Microsoft Philippines is now the software company's subsidiary in the Asia Pacific region that represents the emerging markets. With this, the local subsidiary has been getting additional funding and resources to explore new markets and products, and the opening of the mobile division is one of the results, Javier said.

It was not surprising for Microsoft to finally make its presence felt in the Philippine mobile market.

During last week's CommunicAsia 2006, Microsoft had one of the biggest booths in the annual telecommunications exhibit and conference held every year in Singapore.

At its booth, Microsoft displayed numerous mobile handsets that now run Microsoft's mobile phone software operating system.

Javier said the mobile division will also focus on bringing mobile applications to the local market.

He said that Microsoft Philippines currently has programs for families of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who regularly use "Microsoft labs" set up abroad to stay in touch with their loved ones.

The Microsoft executive said the local subsidiary has a new project with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. This project will experiment on a service that will allow OFWs to speak with their families utilizing some of the most cost-effective methods such as wi-fi and Mobile Voice over Internet Protocol or VoIP and to remit their earnings and digitally transfer them to their designated beneficiaries from a Windows Mobile 5.0 (wi-fi- and cellular-enabled) device.

The first phase of this trial with OFWs is currently underway, Javier added.

NTC scraps blacklisting plans for text spam

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) has decided to scrap plans to blacklist firms found spamming mobile phone subscribers with unsolicited text messages, an official told Infotech.

Instead, the agency has reverted to its original policy that puts the burden back to subscribers who "opt-in" or agree to a particular commercial and promotional advertisements via text messaging, NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said.

The NTC has initially proposed the blacklisting system, dubbed "not-to-text." However, Sarmiento said the content providers and mobile phone operators opposed this idea.

Eventually, the white-listing approach, "dubbed text-me," was pushed. Mobile phone operators and content providers opposed this plan again, arguing it violates privacy issues, Sarmiento said.

Meanwhile, the NTC has ordered a moratorium on mobile broadcast text messaging until it finalizes its rules. This came after mounting complaints from local subscribers who were receiving numerous unsolicited text messages despite opting-out to specific commercial or promotional advertisements.

The revised guideline for broadcast text messaging, which considers all these changes, will come out soon, the official added.

Sarmiento said the NTC would still support stiffer penalties to those who continue to ignore the agency's rules, and the registration of all content providers.

Republic of the Philippines
Metropolitan Cebu Water District
Lapu-Lapu - Magallanes Sts., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 254-8434, 412-1838, 256-0413 to 15, 256-0424
Fax Nos. 254-5301, 412-2774
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Republic of the Philippines
METROPOLITAN CEBU WATER DISTRICT
Bids and Awards Committee
CARMEN BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND CALL FOR REGISTRATION

The Metropolitan Cebu Water District ("MCWD") is inviting potential proponents/bidders/challengers to express their interest in the prospective solicitation of comparative or competitive proposals ("Swiss Challenge") to finance, design, construct, own, operate and maintain raw water abstraction, treatment and transmission facilities intended to extract and treat raw water principally from the Luyang-Cantumog River located in the Municipality of Carmen, Cebu Province, and deliver up to 48 000 cubic meters per day of bulk potable water through a transmission pipeline to the MCWD distribution system under a suitable public-private partnership agreement for a fixed concession period ("Project"). The Project is being developed and procured following the unsolicited proposal process prescribed under Republic Act No 6957, as amended, and its implementing Rules and Regulations ("BOT Law"). The original proponent of the Project, whose unsolicited proposal will be the subject of the Swiss Challenge, is the Ayala Corp./Manila Water Co./Stateland Inc Consortium.

MCWD, through the BOT Center of the Department of Trade and Industry, has engaged the International Finance Corporation ("IFC") as its transaction advisor for this Project.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the BOT Law and Section 2.5 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, all interested parties are asked to signify their interest and register as possible proponents/bidders/challengers by submitting to MCWD (copy furnished IFC), at the addresses indicated below, their letter of intent and company profile with the following information:

1. Name of proponent
2. Business address/tel. no./fax no./email address
3. Number of years in operation
4. Organizational and ownership structure
5. Field of specialization
6. Key personnel (corporate officers and key staff members)
7. List of completed projects (brief description, types of services, location, project cost/contract amount, implementation period, client) and
8. Latest audited financial statements (income statement and balance sheet).

All expressions of interest must be submitted on or before July 28, 2006. Duly registered proponents will be entitled to receive project updates from MCWD.

THIS INVITATION OR CALL FOR REGISTRATION IS NOT THE START OF THE FORMAL SOLICITATION OF COMPARATIVE/COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS. The submission of expressions of interest is not a bidding requirement and will not qualify or disqualify potential bidders from participating in the Swiss Challenge.

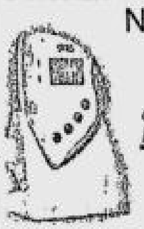
More information regarding this invitation and call for registration may be requested from:

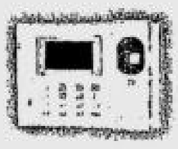
Sanjay Grewal
Advisory Services
International Finance Corporation
11/F Ayala Tower One
Ayala Avenue Makati City
Phone. (852) 2509-8139 Hong Kong
(632) 848-7333 Manila

ARMANDO H. PAREDES
General Manager
Metropolitan Cebu Water District
Magallanes-Lapulapu Streets
Cebu City, Philippines
Phone (032) 256-0411
Email gmo@mcwd.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NOEL R. DALENA
BOT-BAC Chairman

(PDI - July 3, 10 & 17 2006)





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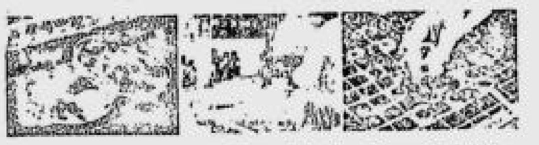

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RETAIL: Agri-Aqua Network Int'l.•BFAR•Dept. of Land Reform•Eastern Wire•East-West Seed•Electroway Phils.•Ellies Roasted Calf•Eng Bee Tin•FEOP Pavilion•G.O. Eng'g.•Halcyon AA Agrix•Harbest Agribusiness•Hoobee Packaging•Metro Bacolod Chamber•OPTA Pavilion•Perez Ent.•Polland Hopia•Puerto del Sol Beach Resort•Ramgo Int'l.•Sagana 100 Phils.•Shawarma Rep.•WS Pacific Pub.

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For inquiries, please contact the organizer:
FOUNDATION FOR RESOURCE LINKAGE AND DEVELOPMENT, INC. S-122, Building 1, Mangosteen Road, FTI Complex, Taguig City, Philippines
Tels. +63 2 8384852, 8384605, 8384549, 8384491 Fax Nos. +63 2 8384573, 8384854 Email: frld@pldtdsl.net Website: www.frld.org/agrilink

The South Luzon Tollway Corporation

announces an

INVITATION TO APPLY and to BID

THE SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY REHABILITATION AND WIDENING PROJECT

(CIVIL WORKS SERVICES)

SOUTH LUZON TOLLWAY CORPORATION invites civil work Category "AAA" contractors to apply for prequalification eligibility for the proposed rehabilitation and expansion of the existing toll road from Alabang to Calamba (28.53 km.).

Interested contractors may pick up the prequalification documents at the following address:

SOUTH LUZON TOLLWAY CORP.
(SLEX) South Luzon Expressway Project
6th Floor Mobile Entertainment Center (formerly Jaycem Bldg.)
104 Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

(PDI–June 30, July 3 & 5, 2006)

PETROENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION

7th Floor, JMT Building, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City Tel. No. 637-2917; 637-5799 Fax No. 634-6066

NOTICE OF REGULAR ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of Stockholders of PetroEnergy Resources Corporation will be held at Rooms 527-528, YIAS, Level 5, Podium 4, RCBC Plaza Building, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City on 26 July 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

(1) Certification of Notice and Quorum;
(2) Determination of Quorum/Call to Order;
(3) Approval of Minutes of the last Regular Stockholders' Meeting held on 27 July 2005;
(4) Approval of Management Report and the 2005 Audited Financial Report contained in the 2005 Annual Report;
(5) Confirmation and Ratification of all acts, contracts and investment made and entered into by Management and/or Board of Directors during the period of 27 July 2005 to 26 July 2006;
(6) Approval of the Thirty Percent (30) Stock Dividend.
(7) Election of Seven (7) members of the Board of Directors for the year 2006-2007;
(8) Appointment of External Auditors;
(9) Other Matters; and
(10) Adjournment.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on 26 June 2006 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at the abovementioned Regular Meeting of Stockholders.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 2 of the Company's By-Laws, for purposes of election to the Board of Directors, any and all nominations shall be submitted to and received at the principal office of the Corporation on or before July 16, 2006, 5:00 p.m. and addressed to the attention of the Corporate Secretary.

(Sgd.) **ARTURO B. MAULION**
Asst. Corporate Secretary

(PDI - July 3, 2006)

STARCM

SUPPORT TO AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL MINDANAO
Project Management Office
3rd Floor ROMA Building, Quezon Boulevard, Kidapawan City 9400
Tel. #: (064) 278-4009 Fax: (064) 278-4252 Email: starcm@philcom.ph

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITIONS

STARCM is a special Project of the **Government of the Philippines** funded by the European Union and implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). The Project provides support for the development of agrarian reform communities in the provinces of Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. The Project is seeking to fill the following positions with duty station at the Project Management in Kidapawan City:

IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATION SPECIALIST (1) Duty Station: Kidapawan City	Must have a **Bachelor's Degree** in applied social sciences and have a minimum of 2 years practical experience with NIA as Institutional Dev't Program Supervisor or 3 years experience equivalent as IDO with substantial exposure to nat'l level policies on irrigation institutional dev't. S/he must have designed and conducted basic training types for IAs-Leadership System and Financial Management.
AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITY COORDINATOR (1) Duty Station: Kidapawan City	Must have a **Bachelor's Degree** in applied social sciences. At least 3 years proven linkaging and liaison work with government agencies, local government units and non-government organizations in the implementation and monitoring/supervision of rural micro-projects and institutional cross-cutting concerns. Must be familiar with the rural socio-economic constraints in Central Mindanao.

All the above candidates must be physically and mentally fit and prepared to undertake fieldwork throughout Central Mindanao. S/he must be fluent in English and highly proficient with Microsoft Office software. S/he should know how to drive a motorcycle and possess a professional driver's license.

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified. Deadline for the submission of applications is on **17 JULY 2006.**

(Sgd.) **GLYNN P. BAKER**
European Co-Director

(Sgd.) **OSCAR A. MAMA**
National Project Director

An application letter, including a resumé detailing duties, responsibilities and relevant experience, and a copy of transcript of records should be submitted to:

The Project Co-Directors
STARCM Project Management Office
3/F ROMA Building, Quezon Boulevard
9400 Kidapawan City

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
Region 13-CARAGA, Bancasi, Butuan City

INVITATION TO FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Date: July 3, 2006
Loan No. 1668-PH: Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project
Contract No: **SPISP-LCB-GLB-01,** Improvement / Rehabilitation of Existing Gibong Left Bank Main Canal (Sta. 0+580 - 4+400) and Appurtenant Structures - **Package 1**
SPISP-LCB-GLB-02, Improvement / Rehabilitation of Existing Gibong Left Bank Main Canal (Sta. 4+400 - 8+860) and Appurtenant Structures - **Package 2**

(Local Competitive Bidding)

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project (SPISP) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation for Prequalification is issued.
2. The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) intends to prequalify firms for the Improvement / Rehabilitation of Existing Gibong Left Bank Main Canal and Appurtenant Structures based on the above mentioned separate contract packages.
3. The Gibong Left Bank is located in the Municipalities of Prosperidad and San Francisco, all of Agusan del Sur approximately 78 km south of Butuan City. Package 1 involves the improvement / rehabilitation of existing 3.82 km Left Main Canal including 15 units irrigation structures. Package 2 involves the improvement / rehabilitation of existing 4.46 km Left Main Canal including 15 units irrigation structures. The scopes of contract per package are expected to be as follows:

Work Items	Estimated Quantity Package 1	Estimated Quantity Package 2
a. Canal Excavation, cu.m.	2,880	2,920
b. Canal Embankment Fill, cu.m.	2,300	1,800
c. Concrete Works with RSB, cu.m.	160	60
d. Concrete Canal Lining, cu.m.	1,540	1,800

4. It is expected that notices of prequalification will be made in August 2006.
5. Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from the NIA-Region 13-CARAGA and inspect the Prequalification Document at the address given below during workdays from 0800 Hours to 1700 Hours, Philippine Standard Time.
6. The Prequalification Forms, in English language, may be purchased by an interested Applicant upon submission of Letter of Intent clearly stating "Application for Prequalification for Contract No.:
   a. SPISP-LCB-GLB-01, Improvement / Rehabilitation of Existing Gibong Left Bank Main Canal (Sta. 0+580 - 4+400) and Appurtenant Structures - Package 1"
   b. SPISP-LCB-GLB-02, Improvement / Rehabilitation of Existing Gibong Left Bank Main Canal (Sta. 4+400 - 8+860) and Appurtenant Structures - Package 2"

and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 per Contract Package not later than 1700 Hours, Philippine Standard Time on July 21, 2006. The Letter of Intent shall be addressed as follows

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
c/o ENG'R RAFAEL A. ALAS, JR
Brgy. Bancasi, Butuan City, PHILIPPINES
Telephone No.: 085-342-3000
Facsimile No.: 085-342-5353
Electronic Mail Address: niacaraga@skyinet.net

7. Submission of Applications for Prequalification, consisting of one (1) original and three (3) copies, must be received in sealed envelopes either delivered by hand or by registered mail to the above address on or before August 4, 2006, 1700 Hours Philippine Standard Time. The envelopes must be clearly marked "Application for Prequalification for Contract No.:
   a. SPISP-LCB-GLB-01, Improvement / Rehabilitation of Existing Gibong Left Bank Main Canal (Sta. 0+580 - 4+400) and Appurtenant Structures - Package 1"
   b. SPISP-LCB-GLB-02, Improvement / Rehabilitation of Existing Gibong Left Bank Main Canal (Sta. 4+400 - 8+860) and Appurtenant Structures - Package 2"
8. The NIA reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
9. The NIA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Applicants in connection with the preparation or delivery of their Applications.
10. The NIA will notify all Applicants in writing of results of evaluation of their applications for prequalification.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL A. ALAS, JR.**
BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) **DEMOCRATICO P. GRANA, JR., CESO V**
Regional Irrigation Manager

(PDI–July 3 & 11, 2006)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

6CB-GSC-061

PURCHASE OF VARIOUS IT EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE
(Name of Project)
35 items of different IT Equipments and Software
(pls. see also details @ www.gensantos.gov.ph)

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City, through the CY 2006 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Three Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Five Pesos (P2,319,495.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Purchase of Various IT Equipments and Software. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Purchase of Various IT Equipments and Software. Delivery of the GOODS is required by **30 calendar days**. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Goverment Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsive of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P1,000.00 to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested on **July 13, 2006, 2:00 o'clock** in the afternoon at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 o'clock** in the afternoon of **July 25, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to One Percent (1%) of ABC or Bank Guarantee equivalent to One and a Half Percent (1½%) of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to Two and a half Percent (2½%) of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at **2:00 o'clock** in the afternoon of **July 25, 2006 at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
Gina Y. Pigar
2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-0553, (083) 302-7210
Fax: (083) 301-0553
website address: www.gensantos.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - July 3 & 10, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), invites Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

LOT NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION OPENING BIDS
1	Water Meters Sizes: ½" Ø, 2"Ø & 3"Ø	P 570,000.00	P 500.00	July 3 to 7, 2006	July 11, 2006	July 25, 2006
2	PVC Pipes & Fittings	128,955.00	500.00	July 3 to 7, 2006	July 11, 2006	July 25, 2006
3	Assorted Brass Fittings	1,309,640.00	1,000.00	July 3 to 7, 2006	July 11, 2006	July 25, 2006
4	Multi Cab Pick up & Jeepney Types	340,000.00	500.00	July 10 to 14, 2006	July 18, 2006	August 1, 2006
5	Computer Software Component and Various SQL Servers	337,500.00	500.00	July 10 to 14, 2006	July 18, 2006	August 1, 2006

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00-5:00 pm).

All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check* and in the following amount: *Lot 1: P5,700.00, Lot 2: P1,289.55, Lot 3: P13,096.40, Lot 4. P3,400.00 & Lot 5. P3,375.00.* Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Email
Fax: (062) 991-2799

(Sgd.) **ARNULFO A. ALFONSO**
BAC 1 Chairman

(PDI–July 3, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF ILOILO

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Iloilo City invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following project.

Name of Project	Proposed Const. / Replacement of Burnt Bldg. (including Termite Control) Phase II
Project Location	A. Mabini Elem. School Cor. Mabini-Gen. Luna St., Iloilo City
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 6,251,461.04
Source of Fund	SEF 2005
Contract Duration	240 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Phase II Construction of three (3) storey office building
Contractor's PCAB License	At least Small B

The Schedule of Bidding Activities is as follows:

Period for the Submission of Letter of Intent	July 4-11, 2006
Period for the Submission of Eligibility Forms	July 4-11, 2006
Period for the Issuance of Bid Documents	July 18-21, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference at the City Budget Office Conference Room	July 25, 2006 at 10:00 AM
Last Day of Submission of Bids in Sealed Envelopes (c/o BAC Secretariat)	Aug. 8, 2006 at 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids in Sealed Envelopes at the City Budget Office Conference Room	Aug. 8, 2006 at 10:00 AM

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements may be obtained from the Office of the BAC Secretariat at the General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City. Duly accomplished Eligibility Forms shall be submitted in sealed envelope addressed to the BAC Chairman c/o BAC Secretariat.

Eligible contractors may obtain the Bid Tender Documents at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand (P 2,000.00) Pesos on the above prescribed period.

Prospective Bidders shall signify their conformance to the Bidding Terms and Conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The criteria to be used by BAC in the Eligibility Check of Prospective Bidders shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulations shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract.

Executive Order No. 398 dated January 12, 2005, by the Office of the President under Sec. 3 – "To ensure continuing compliance with tax laws, all government contracts shall include a stipulation that the private contracting party shall pay taxes in full and on time and that failure to do so will entitle the government to suspend payment for any goods or services delivered by the private contracting party."

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject all Bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that is considered most advantageous to the Local Government Unit.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EDGARDO J. GIL**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 26 & July 3, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

Solicitation No. Goods 06-0703-196

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Motor Vehicles
(Name of Project)

Asian Utility Vehicles Van Type et. al...
(Brief Description of GOODS)

1 **The City Government of Zamboanga** through the **General Fund 2006** intend to apply the sum of **FIVE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P5,815,000.00) ONLY** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract **Motor Vehicles (PR No. 100-06-06-1322).** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. **The City Government of Zamboanga** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Asian Utility Vehicles, Van Type, et. al...** Delivery of the GOODS is required for **Ten (10) working days**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the law or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4 Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **City Government of Zamboanga – Procurement, Acquisition and Award Division** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm starting July 03 to July 17, 2006.**

b A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **P1,000.00**. The method of payment will be **Cash payable to the City Treasurer's Office.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The City Government of Zamboanga will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **July 5, 2006; 10:00 AM at the City Engineers Conference Room.**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 AM July 17, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of **Check, Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check** payable to the City Treasurer, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit and in the amount of **P58,150.00 or Bank Guarantee in the amount of P87,225.00 or Surety Bond in the amount of P145,375.00** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. **Bid opening shall be on July 17, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the City Engineers Conference Room, City Hall, Z.C.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. **To be delivered in the Office of City Mayor.**

10. The City Government of Zamboanga reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procurement, Acquisition & Award Division
Milagros W.S. Saavedra
City Hall, N.S. Valderosa St. Z.C.
Telefax: 992-7763 or 991-0882

(Sgd.) **MARIO D. ARRIOLA (DVM)**
BAC Chairman

PDI - July 3 & 9, 2006

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration

Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for
V-M-C RURAL ELECTRIC SERVICE COOPERATIVE, INC.
(VRESCO)
Tortosa, Manapla, Negros Occidental

Qualifications:

- 30-50 years old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Must be Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Manapla, Negros Occidental

Starting Salary : P 35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 14 July 2006.

(Sgd.) **EDITHA S. BUENO**
Administrator

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
5 sets ECCS Reader plus Two (2) Years Maintenance Services	P3,300,800.00	July 13, 2006 2:00 pm	July 26, 2006 1:00 PM	P 1,700.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting July 3, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - July 3 & 10, 2006)

More Classified Ads: TransCo, PDEA, West Visayas State University & INEC on B10; MCWD on B11.

A PROGRESSIVE COMPANY, HEAVY ON INVESTMENT PROMOTION, URGENTLY SEEKS QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS FOR THE FF:

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

BS Mechanical Engineer with 1 year relevant experience with 4 hours of relevant training. Mechanical Engineer Board Passer.

Two (2) ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST I

Bachelor's degree relevant to the job with CS Professional Eligibility.

NURSE I

Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Nurse Board passer.

Three (3) ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

BS Electrical Engineer with 1 year relevant experience with 4 hours of relevant training. Electrical Engineer Board passer.

Send resumé with 2x2 picture & pertinent credentials to:

P.O. Box 3403
Makati Central Post Office
1274 Makati City

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Agencia de Makati
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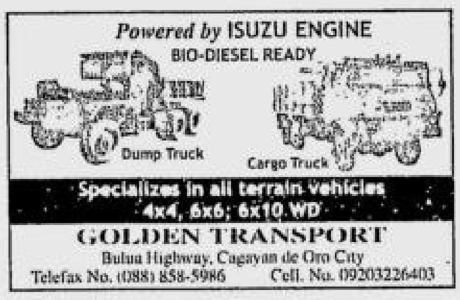

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GOLDEN TRANSPORT
Bulua Highway, Cagayan de Oro City
Telefax No. (088) 858-5986 Cell. No. 09203226403

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte, PHILIPPINES 2913
Tel. No. (077) 784-75-46 & 47; 784-71-26 & Fax No. (077) 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FOR BIDS

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. has applied for a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines to finance the construction of its 69 KV power line and invites electrical contractors who are PCAB registered to apply for pre-qualification and to submit bids for the said project:

The project includes the furnishing of labor and materials for the construction of about 37 Kilometers of 69 KV line in the Province of Ilocos Norte.

Interested contractors and suppliers may obtain their pre-qualification forms and bid documents from the INEC main office starting July 17, 2006.

Pre-qualification documents must be received by this office not later than August 07, 2006. Only those pre-qualified shall be invited to bid for the project.

INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expense or loss that the bidder may incur in the preparations of its bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to INEC.

(Sgd.) **ROMILLAS C. PASCUAL**
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which came out in the Classified Section of Philippine Daily Inquirer last June 23, 2006, the publication schedule was inadvertently printed as June 23 & 28, 2006 instead of **June 23 & 29, 2006** indicated in the lower most space of the ad.

Our apologies.

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Masses will be offered at the following:

Christ the King (E. Rodriguez)	6:00 PM
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The Shrine of St. Joseph	6:00 PM
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May we request relatives, friends & reader to remember Mommy & Daddy & the holy souls in purgatory in your prayers & Masses.

Maria Clara Peñaranda Makabenta

29 June 1909 – 2 July 2006

Beloved wife of the late **Patricio A. Makabenta**. Mother of **Patro, Boy, Yen** and **Leah.** Grandmother of **Liza, Boboy, Chito, Dino, Jocelyn, Rene, Bettina, Eva** and **Patrick**; **Ping-ku, Mai-lu** and **Mia**; and **Federico** and **Rasho**. Great-grandmother of **John-John, Patet, Paupau** and **Pamel**; **Aya Isabel, Mio** and **Pia**; **Sabrina**; **Babam Camille**; **Kiko; Eman; Montse** and **Javie**.

Relatives and friends may call at the family residence in Barugo, Leyte. Interment will be on Thursday, July 6th, after the 8.30 a.m. Funeral Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

FRANCIS EDWARD CASTILLO CUSTODIO, M.D.

(August 01, 1974 – July 01, 2006)

Peacefully though untimely, joined our Creator on 01 July 2006 at the tender age of 31 at the Philippine Orthopedic Center, where he was a duly appointed, first year Resident Physician.

His loving parents Dr. Emmett & Rosemarie; sisters Estelle & husband Ian Piencenaves; Divina and husband Elvin Sanico; nephew & niece: Gregory & Baci; "close relatives", colleagues & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul, in its final journey.

His remains lie in state at Solace II, Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on 06 July 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Lourdes Church, Quezon City

---

"There is an appointed time
for everything, and a time
for every affair under
the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

ARTURO GABRIEL DAVID

Peacefully joined our Lord
on 01 July 2006 at the age of 56.

His loving wife **Belinda M. David**; his children **Oliver** and **Angela, Cheryl** and **Noel** and **Bryan Arthur**; his grandchildren **Nina Issabel, Matthew, Nathan** and **Justin**; his loving parents **Benedicto** and **Lydia David**, brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends give thanks to the Lord for the blessings of his life.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Inc. Chapel-A1 at G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment is on Thursday, July 6, 2006, 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park-Sucat, Parañaque City.

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OUR LADY OF PENTECOST PARISH, Loyola Heights, Quezon City	All Masses
ASSUMPTION CONVENT, San Lorenzo Village, Makati	6:15 p.m.
ATENEO DE MANILA COLLEGE CHAPEL, Loyola Heights, Q.C.	5:15 p.m.
HEART OF JESUS & MARY, Bulletin St., West Triangle, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Antipolo City	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF THE ABANDONED, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 p.m.
PEÑAFRANCIA, Basilica, Naga City	6:00 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, McKinley Road, Makati	6:00 p.m.
STA. MARIA DELLA STRADA, Loyola Heights, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH, Arnaiz St., Makati	6:00 p.m.
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE, Mo. Ignacia cor. Timog, Quezon City	6:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
UST PARISH, Sampaloc, Manila	6:15 a.m. 6:15 p.m.

Please remember him in your prayers

Nory Gana Francisco and children:
Lucy, Eddie, Ping Mon (†), Benjie (†), Freddie,
Ludy, Nonoy, Susan, Gina, Geng, Neni

INFOTECH

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NTC, private sector working on transition to digital TV

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

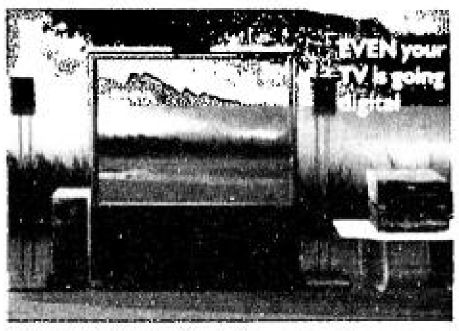
BROADCASTING FIRMS and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) are now working on guidelines to the planned transition to digital television in 2015 in the Philippines, an NTC official told Infotech.

NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said the agency and representatives of the local industry have formed a technical working group to work on the government guidelines to the transition to digital TV.

The NTC official said the rules and procedures for the transition are expected to be ready by next month.

The agency and the local broadcasting industry expect to go all-

NTC/B11



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intel

Tech Support and Maintenance for SMBs: Prevention and Cure

By Ricky Banaag, Country Manager, Intel Microelectronics Philippines, Inc.

Investment in information technology by small and medium business (SMBs) in Asia is skyrocketing. After weathering the economic downturn, SMBs are now looking to grow their business using information technology (IT), with analysts predicting a remarkable increase of 19% in SMB technology spending in 2004.[1] However, buying hardware is only the first step. The way this technology is managed will greatly affect how profitable the investment will be.

Support and maintenance costs SMBs a great deal of time and money. According to Gartner, the purchase price of a new personal computer (PC) accounts for only 20 to 30 per cent of the total cost of owning that PC, with the rest going to supporting and maintaining this hardware.[2] These support costs rise substantially for older systems, driving up the operational expenses that comprise most of the 70 to 80 per cent of the total cost of owning a computer.[3]

With IT investment surging and system complexity increasing, IT support is crucial to all businesses. System downtime often translates to lost business. So how should an SMB effectively manage its IT system?

The Quick Cure

When you're ill, you usually see a doctor. If you're technology shows symptoms of a glitch, call your "digital doctor" - your IT vendor help desk. Below are some tips to assist the help desk technician assess and fix the problem:

Right problem, right person

The most important element to remember when talking to a helpdesk is patience! Just as your doctor takes time to walk through your symptoms before developing a diagnosis, help desk technicians must also walk through your system's symptoms. Try to be patient as the technician assesses your problem and identifies a solution.

Occasionally, the help desk technician may require a second opinion to accurately pin point the cause of the problem. Just as you would seek the advice of a medical specialist, don't be afraid to ask for assistance from a higher level engineer or manager if needed. It can sometimes save quite a bit of time.

Keep Detailed Logs

Like doctors keep records of your medical history, keep a record each of your technical problems and the solutions offered by the helpdesk. The effort spent documenting problems can help reduce the long-term costs of your system support, as you will know how to resolve these problems if they arise again

The Preventative Approach

No one likes being ill, which is why the healthcare concept of "prevention" rather than "cure" is growing in popularity. Most people would rather avoid getting sick, rather than visiting a doctor on a regular basis. Adopting a preventative approach also works for technology systems. In the case of technology, prevention starts with good technology planning. Below are a few considerations to help prevent system downtime and reduce maintenance costs.

Regular PC Replacement Program

Regardless of brand, your technology should be current. The optimum lifecycle is three years for a desktop PC and two years for notebooks. Beyond this timeframe, maintenance and upgrades can cost more than replacing the entire PC! It may sound strange, but without scheduling regular updates, companies tend to practice a "crash and burn" approach to IT maintenance. By replacing computers only when they fail, they not only miss out on the productivity gains of more current computers, but they also wind up with dozens of different hardware configurations and out-of-date software, costing more in ongoing maintenance long term. Orchestrating technical support for such a haphazard system will be a full time job, even if you only have a few of these ailing computers.

Q: Why buy the best PC I can afford?

A: A sufficiently powerful, balanced system allows multitasking to operate effectively. For example, PCs equipped with the latest technologies such as the Intel® Pentium® D processor enables users to multitask and process background tasks more efficiently. With two processor cores, a PC can handle more applications or programs at one time. This means, more system maintenance, such as virus software, backup and indexing, can occur while you are doing work, which means less time spent on the phone trying to fix problems.

Because aging computers can't handle complex applications, they can be a huge IT burden. This sidetracks you from your core business responsibilities and increases maintenance overhead, leading to a more complex and costly system. The older the PC, the more costs accumulate. Time, human resources and component parts are required and repairs can be expensive.

Keeping your system simple

Keeping your system simple by standardizing hardware and software can lower the support costs in the long run. Imagine how much time and effort is wasted re-inventing the wheel if you need to trouble-shoot the same problem of your PC's from different manufacturers.

Conclusion

Managing an IT system should be looked at as an opportunity, not a burden. When your system is running smoothly, its benefits cannot be underestimated. A study in the U.S. found that 93% of all companies that lost their data for 10 days or more filed for bankruptcy within one year of the disaster. A full shutdown like this is uncommon. It usually only results when a company does little or nothing to maintain their IT system's integrity. A little downtime can be all the time your competitors need to move in. But with these simple maintenance techniques, you will be ahead of the game.

# # #

Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

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[1] http://www.ami-partners.com/[illegible]/press/april_2004_top ten_trends_pr_with_slides.doc, excludes Japan

[2] Gartner Research (June 2003): "Linux Desktop TCO: An Overview", Gartner Inc June 19, 2003

[3] The Financial Aspects of PC Fleet Management, www.intel.com

[4] "Information security- your responsibility as a company director or manager," Australian Business News magazine June July 2003

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₱100B just change in East Asia's infra boom

Solon wants new gov't agency to protect private firms' massive investments

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARroyo's plan to pour in P100 billion (roughly $2 billion) to develop the country's infrastructure sounds impressive.

But not when you consider what the entire East Asia region will spend in the next five years for infrastructure—$165 billion.

To keep pace with its neighbors, the Philippines will need to rely more on private investors putting their money in toll roads, seaports and airports, and power plants under a build-operate-and-transfer mode in the next five years if it plans to keep at pace with the economic growth of its deep-pocketed neighbors.

This is why Arroyo economic adviser and Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda is pushing for the establishment of a BOT Authority to be chaired by the President herself that would ensure that nightmarish experiences by foreign investors in high-profile BOT projects such as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. and Impsa's Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power plant in Laguna.

"With the President taking a hands-on control of these projects, the proposed BOT Authority should firm-up government's commitment and full attention in identifying critical areas of private sector participation in our infrastructure development to facilitate economic activities in our urban and regional growth areas" Salceda says.

Over the next four years, Salceda says East Asia would require $165 billion to finance its infrastructure requirements. "As part of the fastest-growing region in the world, the Philippines should be well prepared in capturing considerable investments with a sound infrastructure policy framework that is both comprehensive and responsive in facilitating economic growth" Salceda said.

The bulk of East Asia's infrastructure requirements would still be in power generation at $60 billion, followed by road networks at $30 billion, telecoms with $20 billion, water and sanitation at $20 billion and railways with $15 billion.

With the BOT Authority, Salceda expects improved central oversight of the planning and coordination of investments. "We should do away with the propensity of line agencies to

P100B/B2-2

MERCY Palabras, 46, says finding work as a laborer in the newly established coco coir plant in her town in San Isidro in Davao Oriental augments her family's income.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Going nuts over coconut

By Dennis S. Santos

SAN ISIDRO, DAVAO ORIENTAL—Some 70 percent of the more than 30,000 people here rely on coconut farming. The rest are into fishing or other forms of small-scale livelihood.

It has been like this for the four decade history of the province.

Mayor Apolinar Ruelo Sr. says the everyday stark reality of poverty grapples many marginalized farmers here where the unemployment rate is very high.

"Roughly only 10 percent (of the people in San Isidro) are employed in various offices," Ruelo says.

He says coconut farming alone cannot provide for a family's need. Seeing the need to diversify their livelihood, farmers recently planted other high value crops such as mango, banana and coffee.

But the coconut industry will always be the main economic drive for many of the farmers here; many of them do not own the land they till.

The province's 11 towns, San Isidro included, are considered the country's coconut capital, supplying the largest volume of copra.

But earnings are erratic because copra's market price varies.

A new group is offering some hope to the farmers.

Hope industry

Rotchie Ravelo, plant manager of the Davao Oriental Coco Husk Social Enterprise Inc., a business enterprise set up only two years ago, offers some answers.

Ravelo says their firm, initiated by two nongovernment organizations—the Kalumonan Development Center Inc. and Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation Inc., was created "specifically to provide jobs and augment the coconut farmers' income."

It also wants to help the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), who are residents of this town, to put their money into good use by co-investing in the industry.

The group buys coconut husks, which has been considered as waste product.

Coconut farmers can now earn as much as P3,000 per harvest, depending on the volume.

"The farmers don't even have to go to our plant to sell their husks, since we go around and buy from them," Ravelo says.

The raw coconut husks are then processed into useful material such as coco coir or coir fiber and the coir dust or coco peat.

Coco fiber has many industrial purposes like fillings for furniture, for production of brushes, carpets, rugs, doormats, twines and even ornaments.

It was also recently used in making "geotextile," a material for making bonded mats that are effective for soil erosion and drainage control.

China, for instance, makes use of the coco coir as the main component in making lumber "board."

The coco dust—which is the by-product of coir fiber making-in turn can be used as soil conditioner, found to be useful for horticulture activities and banana growers.

With a start-up capital of P1.5 million, the company started its operations in 2004 with only four office staff workers and 16 laborers.

Today the company's capital stands at more than P5 million, and employs more than 60.

Ravelo is confident they are making headway and will consider expanding their capacity.

Company's mission

"This is a multi-sectoral project," he says. What the company earns goes to their expansion project.

The plant manufactures about 50 tons of coco fiber a month, but their market in China demands at least 100 tons.

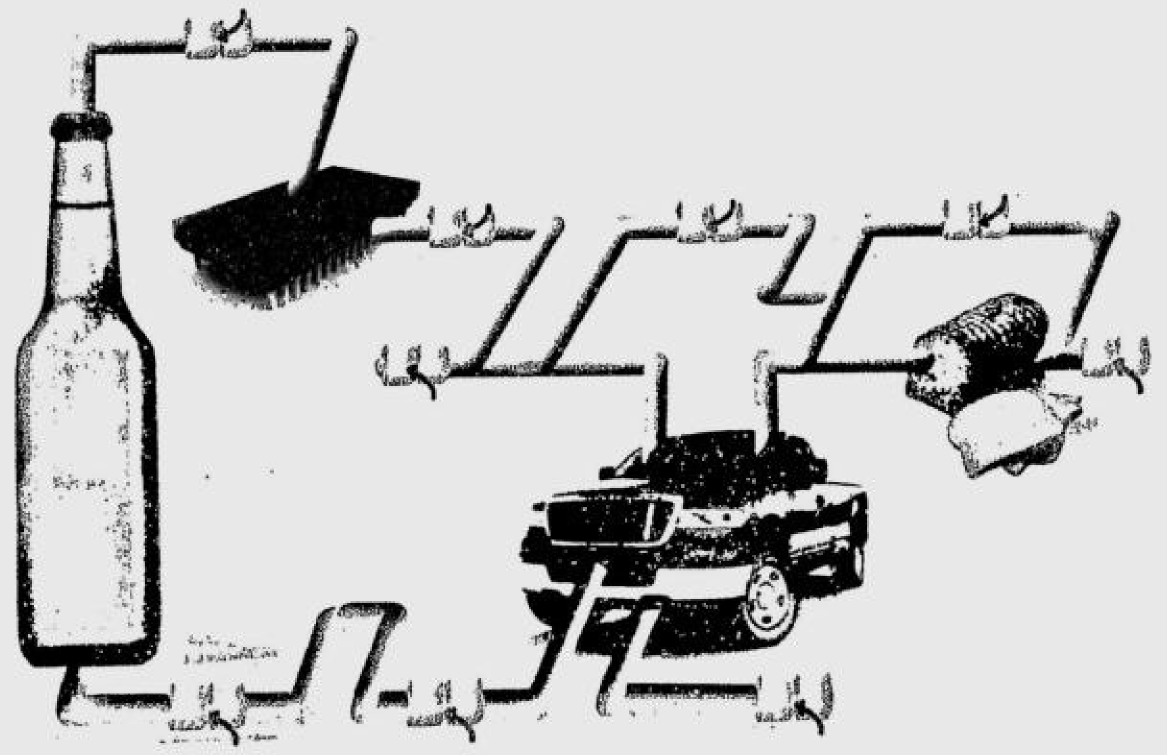
Ravelo says many are questioning why they are into an enterprise when they are an NGO. He says the company's ownership will eventually be turned over to the farmers themselves, through a "multi-stakeholder" scheme.

"And once they learn to operate the growing company, the farmers themselves will be the one to run and manage it."

Mercy Palabras, 40, a plant laborer, says that because of the opportunity to work, she can now augment the meager salary of her husband.

"It has somewhat eased my financial problem," she says.

Vital component in most industrial processes



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Canute, Cannes or 'camote'?

By Greg Garcia
Contributor

I ONCE SAT IN A meeting between my late boss, Tomas B. Aguirre, a banker's banker but whom I admired more for his innate sense of marketing, and the manager of his hotel property.

Perhaps to dazzle and distract him from the monthly report showing yet another dismal occupancy rate, the hotel manager proudly announced, "Sir, we just bought an ice-making machine."

"What we need is a customer-making machine," was the quick retort of Aguirre.

Ouch. The truth hurts.

This incident came to mind as I perused the advertising industry's excellent trade paper, Adobo.

In that one issue alone, you will read indications that the next generation of our advertising professionals are being led to believe that advertisers should embrace "ice-making machines" (creative awards) rather than "customer-making machines (increased market shares)."

Why, a consultant of a multinational advertising agency even proclaimed in the same magazine that "Improving the quality of our product is something that our clients ask us to do, and to them, winning at Cannes is the (ever rising) bar for which we must aim."

Premium on awards

I wonder which of his clients put more premium on winning awards than increasing share points when evaluating advertising?

Perhaps it is wiser if we heed the advice of Phil Dusenberry, the creative person who turned BBDO into a creative powerhouse.

Dusenberry said: "When you boil it all down, the purpose of any business is to improve conditions so that your business performs better. In my line of work, the goal has been to create great ads for the client so that sales pick up. I can't express it any simpler than that. Clients advertise with one overriding objective: sell more stuff."

Sure, if the creative work that sells stuff wins awards, great.

But what if the creative work sells a lot of stuff but doesn't win awards? Is that bad?

Don't get me wrong. I believe in creative awards.

A creative award is a great motivation for creative people to come up with better work.

Lee Clow, a well-known creative, sums it up well. He said: "You have to remember that creative people have a combination of giant egos and naïve insecurity. They need validation for their work, and they don't necessarily get that from clients. Instead they go looking for that, and a smidgen of self-esteem, from their peers."

Moving the brand

But I draw the line when the moving motivation in doing creatives is to win awards rather than to move the brand.

You want an ego massage? Go spend your own money, and not the client's.

So, do award-winning commercials sell?

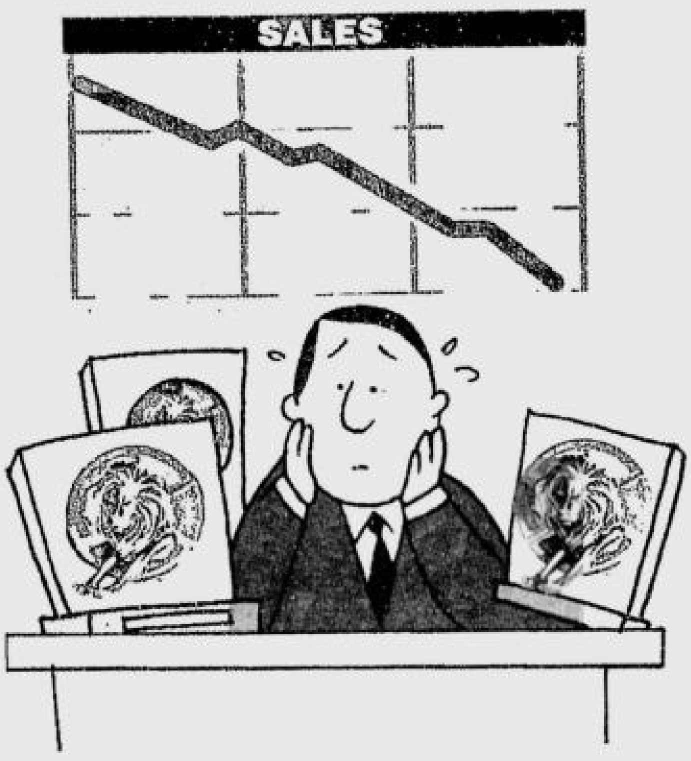
To get answers to the bedeviling question, "Do award-winning commercials sell?" the Leo Burnett Co. in 1992 and 1993 conducted a study of the 200 most-awarded commercials in the world.

Despite the difficulty of not having a single set of criteria to judge effectiveness because of varying goals and standards, the study revealed that 86 percent of the 200 commercials were associated with marketplace success.

But, take note that the majority of the award-winning commercials reviewed were those of major recognizable brands. Successful brands. Major spending accounts of the advertising agencies. Not some obscure clients enticed with free "scam ads."

Local scene

So, what's happening in the local scene?



Well, looking again at the trade magazine Adobo, if creative awards are measurements of great work for clients, then the major advertisers in the country are being short-changed.

Here's a client-list of some of the Philippine winners in the "Asia Pacific Advertising Festival 2006."

Consuelo Foundation. Greenpeace. Childhope. Palmer Asia. Vaseline. And Lamy pens.

I know Vaseline.

But what happened to the advertising of those major advertisers who provide the money for the advertising agency folks to go to Cannes?

Do these results mean that the non-winning clients, for example, of the declared Philippine Hottest Agency (according to Campaign Brief Asia) like FedEx, Pepsi, Pizza Hut, and even our Department of Tourism are getting lousy creative work?

Which local client handled by them leapfrogged from obscurity to market leadership because of award-winning advertising?

Just a question, not a criticism. Nor a putdown. You have to admire these guys for continuously reaching for a Cannes gold award.

But one cannot help but ask the question: Why have award-winning agencies not concentrated on producing award-winning creatives for their bread-and-butter clients?

Why the need to pick up obscure non-advertising clients to produce award-winning advertising?

Maybe self-serving creativity goes too far?

"People say it is easier to create a memorable advertisement than it is to create an advertisement that makes the product memorable. A number of tests have proved that people often remember a commercial, but not a product," according to a study.

The key to avoiding this from happening is hard work. Harder work.

Every professionally run advertising agency has a propriety formula on how to come up with big selling ideas.

Dusenberry describe theirs as RAISE (Research, Analysis, Insight, Strategy and Execution). This is the kind of stuff that creatives (lazy creatives) hate. Where no execution is done or approved until they've got the basics right.

Brilliant award-winning idea but off-strategy? Waste basket.

If the strategy is right but the execution is average, the brand will continue to grow. But if the strategy is wrong, even an award-winning ad cannot save a brand's decline.

Creatives today are being trained to look at executions and their award-winning potential rather than concentrating on coming up with insightful ideas based on a sound strategy to produce market-busting executions.

"Ice-making," rather than "customer-making."

And yet it's a common creative paradox: the narrower your focus; and the more precise the positioning, the more room you have to roam.

The local creative community will do well to look at the current advertising of Apple computers, the icon of hip. It's a side-by-side hard-working demonstration commercial, the favorite format of Procter & Gamble.

In the commercial, the advantages of Apple versus PCs are spelled out clearly without sacrificing the likeability factor of the commercial.

The brand is central to the story.

Contrast this with the trend to produce hip video-joke commercials and then, as an afterthought, just attaching the name of the brand in the end.

The agency wins, but the client loses every time this happens.

Maybe the clients have discovered that they have been bankrolling unnecessarily the ego massaging of their agencies.

How else can you explain the diminishing role of advertising agencies in the clients' marketing activities and their diminishing income?

In a recent article, David Guerrero of the local BBDO office cited the legend of King Canute and likened him to those who are preaching discipline in creativity and trying to stop the onslaught of award-oriented advertising.

Having read on King Canute, it seems more appropriate that King Canute is compared to today's advertising client being flattered no end by agencies that he, Canute, can do no wrong if his company wins creative awards.

So with the awards in hand, he tries to stop the wave of harder-working competition.

Well, when the King Canute client gets wet, he can always tell his agency to go and plant camote.

(The author was the former chief creative officer and managing director of Hemisphere Leo Burnett) Feedback at greg3_ph@yahoo.com

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P100B is just change in East Asia's infra boom

From page B2-1

create their own infrastructure corporations that invariably add to the confusion of a serious infrastructure policy framework."

Salceda explains that the proposed BOT Authority would also spearhead international road shows to attract investments for infrastructure in the country.

The BOT Authority, which will have a multi-agency policy-making committee, should put to rest questions on policy and turf in the determination and implementation of public-private partnerships in infrastructure investments," says Salceda who cited the lack of safeguards in BOT rules that most local and foreign investors require before they commit their funds into the country.

The BOT Authority will take charge of implementing the President's Infrastructure Roadmap which would detail a countrywide survey of possible private investments in infrastructure development especially in the rural areas such as water systems, ports, roads and bridges, abattoirs and hospitals.

The Infrastructure Roadmap, the President's follow-up to her fiscal road map, would not only cater to institutional investors abroad but can also tap investments from Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). "An Infrastructure Roadmap would allow our OFWs to look into areas of investments in their own localities thereby fostering an 'engagement' into the infrastructure development of their hometowns."

"We are now reaping the gains of our resolve to implement the fiscal reform program. With encouraging feedback from credit rating agencies, conditions will now enable us to lower the cost of financing from the private sector in infrastructure investments," he says.

The Infrastructure Roadmap will address the declining share of infrastructure in the budget. From 2001 to 2005, the Philippines only spent an average of 2.42 percent of gross domestic product for infrastructure development compared to Thailand and Vietnam which spends more than 7 percent of their GDP to finance their infrastructure requirements.

SALCEDA

Salceda says that not only does the country spend too little but that its infrastructure quality as ranked by the World Competitiveness Report falls below the average compared to the fast-growing economies of East Asia such as Malaysia, Thailand, China, Indonesia and Singapore.

The World Bank is concerned over government's spending cuts, saying that further expenditure restraints for infrastructure, basic services and poverty reduction efforts would seriously undermine the country's fiscal sustainability.

In a draft paper presented during the recent 2006 Philippine Development Forum, the World Bank said expenditure cuts from 19.5 percent of GDP in 2003 to 17.5 percent in 2005 across major spending categories except interest payments "can only adversely affect public sector efficiency and poverty reduction efforts."

While the World Bank recognizes as significant the 2-percent reduction in the national government deficit over the last two years, it was worried that the government has achieved a balanced at the expense of growth and other development objectives.

Continuing quest for innovative solutions

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Dr. Niceto S. Poblador

THE TWIN FORCES OF globalization and interconnectivity made possible by the Internet have made the business environment increasingly complex and unpredictable.

To most managers the world over, these developments are terribly unsettling.

In today's fast-paced business environment, competitiveness gained from superior products, advanced production technologies, famous brands, or cost-effective management systems can no longer be sustained for long.

Survival under these uncertain circumstances requires organizations to adapt quickly to a continuously unfolding situation.

In today's highly volatile world of business, continuous innovation is the key to success.

Today's managers deal with much more complex and more varied problems than those faced by their predecessors.

They grapple with problems that defy traditional analysis and standard classification.

They are increasingly aware that effective management is no longer a simple matter of applying standard business decision rules of the type taught in business schools, nor merely adopting the best practices of successful business organizations.

They are beginning to realize that they themselves must learn how to craft their own unique solutions to the equally unique problems they face.

But if conventional management wisdom is no longer to be believed, what then constitutes the new orthodoxy, if indeed there is one?

What are the new rules of the game, if there are any? What new individual and organizational competencies must be developed to survive these challenging times?

As a first serious step to address these questions, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) decided recently to organize a series of management forums to provide the appropriate venue for management professionals to dialogue on the management issues of the day.

This series of forums will look at how Philippine businesses are coping under hostile business conditions. It seeks to discover what bold and innovative solutions have been adopted by these companies in these trying and challenging times to survive and to create value for their shareholders.

For this purpose, MAP, through its management development committee, has invited as keynote speakers in the series the CEOs or chairs of four selected business corporations known for their innovative approaches to strategy.

These invited speakers will present their respective strategic platforms before a group of top-level managers, HRM practitioners and academics. These presentations will be followed by open forums in which the strategies will be extensively discussed.

For this year's series, MAP has invited the following as keynote speakers:

- Esther C. Tan, chair of Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc.;
- Noel C. Oñate, chair, Asian Spirit;
- Alfredo I. Ayala, CEO of LiveIt Solutions Inc. (the BPO holding company of Ayala); and
- Carlos C. Ejercito, president and CEO of the United Laboratories Group of Companies.

The open forums will be led by the following session coordinators:

- Gregorio S. Navarro, managing partner and CEO, Punongbayan and Araullo;
- Jesus G. Gallegos, professor, Asian Institute of Management;
- Philip E. Juico of the Graduate School of Business, DLSU Professional Schools Inc.; and
- Victor L. Magdaraog, vice president and COO, SGV Development Dimensions International.

MAP has also assembled a panel of experts representing different areas of management to help enliven the discussions at each of the four sessions scheduled for this year.

The first of the series will be held on Thursday, July 13, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m at the Conservatory of The Peninsula Manila.

For particulars, please course your inquiries to the MAP secretariat at these contact numbers: 751-1151 and 751-1152, or email them at mapsec@globenet.com.ph

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an active academic and a knowledge management consultant. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Foundations celebrate CSR week

THE LEAGUE OF CORPORATE Foundations (LCF) will tap local and international experts on corporate social responsibility (CSR) during the LCF "CSR Expo 2006: Let's Take CSR to Heart," LCF announced during the event's launching at the Cultural Hall of Petron MegaPlaza Building in Makati City.

The three-day expo, to be held on July 5-7, 2006 at the Every Nation Leadership Institute in Bonifacio Global City (between Market! Market! and International School Manila), aims to integrate corporate social responsibility into all levels of businesses in the country and make CSR everybody's business.

"We hope to reach out to as many companies regardless of size—whether small, medium or large—to take CSR to heart. This expo will show how we overcome the challenges in integrating CSR into our main strategy as companies; it is a celebration for our success as corporate citizens," LCF president and Mirant Philippines Foundation executive director Bobby Calingo said.

The CSR Expo 2006 will feature talks and plenary sessions with local CEOs and CSR experts and international speakers such as Dr. Emmett Carson, president and CEO of The Minneapolis Foundation and former chairman of the Council on Foundations, (USA); Nileema Noble, United Nations resident coordinator in the Philippines; Bob Grove, managing director for Southeast Asia, Edelman Singapore; Anne-Maree Huxley, founder of Models of Success and Sustainability and director of CSR Summit 2005 (Australia); and Duncan Power and John Winkett, executive director and deputy director of Charities Aid Foundation (Australia), respectively.

The annual event will unite small, medium and large businesses in the Philippines for the common cause of providing system-wide business solutions to social problems in the country.

"Over the last few years, we have been organizing this event for the main purpose of sharing the message of hope throughout the public, especially among the marginalized sectors of society. It also provides a venue wherein those of us in the business, government and civil society can share experiences and look for synergy to ensure that our efforts have a direct and sustainable impact," Petron Corp. president Khallid Al-Faddagh said.

"While we compete very aggressively in the market, when it comes to CSR we're on the same side, we share the same ideals. What we really need to do now is get a lot more companies and a lot more people to really take CSR to heart because only when you internalize CSR that you really see that this is not an expense rather this is an investment for the future," Shell companies in the Philippines chairman Ed Chua explained.

LCF presented the program for the CSR Expo, which will focus on involving CEOs, middle management and rank and file employees and youth in sharing the Filipino CSR experience.

The LCF CSR Expo 2006 is open to the public. Those who want to go to the event may use public utility jeeps and buses that ply the Market! Market!-Ayala and Guadalupe-Market! Market! routes. For more information visit www.lcf.org.ph or call 892-9189/892-9084/892-5753.

Young pilot earns from personal websites

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

JENNIFER Kalashian, founder of Create Your Own Website.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—"TO want to belong is only human," wrote one Filipino blogger. And many Filipinos agree with him.

There may only be less than a tenth of the Philippine population using the Internet but most of them want more than just to surf and play games.

There are at least five million Filipinos who have accounts in Friendster, a popular online "slum book," while about 75,000 Filipinos have web logs (blogs), according to the Blog Herald, an online databank of blogs.

"Most blogs can only get you so far," said Jennifer Kalashian, 23, founder of Create Your Own Website (www.cyow.com) based in this city.

"You need something that can tell the world that you are better than the ordinary," said Kalashian, a Filipino-American who graduated with a science and technology course at the University of Nevada-Reno. Her father is an American.

Also a licensed pilot, Kalashian comes home often to visit Baguio and Natividad, Pangasinan, the hometown of her mother, nutritionist Vita Nadonza.

But last year, she decided not only to visit the country but to set up CYOW.

Kalashian's Baguio-based company tries to go beyond blogs by giving Filipinos their own professional-looking website for free.

The free website is available for those who want only three pages. Those who want a more extensive website can avail of her company's $5 (P266) a month hosting fee.

Kalashian recalls that one of their first customers was a businessman dealing in waste management. "He just put in his PowerPoint presentation and then [sent] text messages to his customers to open his website. He did this for free in only 15 minutes," she says.

"With a blog, you are not given a website so the features provided for you are very limited. Blogs are personal and text-oriented," she says.

The www.cyow.com is for those who want a custom-made website with advanced features like text on photos, text boxes, buttons, custom borders, forms generator, image modifiers, zoom in and out, insertion of various objects and many others.

"Websites are a great equalizer. You may have a hole-in-the-wall business, but with a great website, you can project yourself bigger-than-life," she says.

Kalashian says she came on the idea when she realized that about 50,000 wrote "make your own website" in Yahoo's search engine. The same request was made by almost the same number of people in Google and Overture, she says.

She assembled a team that included her siblings in the United States and web designers from Baguio.

Kalashian says locating her CYOW team in Baguio made it cheaper to develop and expand their services.

Kalashian took it from her father, Michael Kalashian, who helped found King Mike Security Services, one of the biggest security agencies in Northern Luzon.

Later shifting his business acumen to website design, the elder Kalashian helped develop Web Assist Pro, which allows anyone to create, design and fashion their own website.

"This service has taken the best functions of Dreamweaver and Flash, and combined them in an easy-to-use online service," Kalashian says.

"The product is hosted online so features and new capabilities can easily be added and we can provide the product at the most economical cost," she says of the Web Assist Pro.

"It used to be that professional websites were created only by so-called professionals. A lot of hard work went into simplifying a very complex technology on our part so that an average businessman can create his own website with little or no budget," says Ian Agibuay, director of WebCoast Design, a sister company of CYOW.

"The target for CYOW is initially the Philippines and US, but CYOW has been designed to support Asian languages, including Japanese, Korean and simplified Chinese," said Agibuay.

Since CYOW started operations early this year, it has serviced mostly companies in Northern Luzon and the West Coast in the US.

How to invest in stocks, even if you're abroad

A NEW BREED OF BROKERS IS PROVIDING direct and online access to the Philippine Stock Market to help overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and migrants invest in the local stock market from anywhere in the world with an internet access at their convenience.

Francis Lim, PSE president and chief executive officer, said "online brokers will level the playing field not only for OFWs and migrants but also for small investors."

"With a minimum amount of investment, online clients can have access to the same information as everyone else and execute their trades within seconds," Lim said. "The online service gives them the same advantage that other market participants enjoy in dealing with conventional brokers."

The same service is also ideal for investors in the provinces. According to Lim, investors in the provinces need not spend on costly long distance calls to get in touch with their brokers in Manila to invest in the stock market.

If the provincial investor has Internet access, he or she can already invest in the stock market through the online brokers.

"You don't have to be a big investor to avail of the services of online brokers, because for as low as P25,000 you can open an account with them," Lim said.

The rate of commission that an online broker will charge a client varies, but it can go as low as 0.25 percent of the value of the transaction, which is the lowest possible broker's commission allowed by the PSE.

"But best of all for the OFWs, they can now participate at their convenience in the growth prospects of Philippine companies listed in the PSE without having to fly home just to invest in the stock market," Lim said.

Several stock brokerage companies either offer direct online trading service or maintain a tie-up with online trading affiliates.

They include AB Capital Securities Inc. (www.abcapitalonline.com), Accord Capital Equities Corporation (www.accordcapital.ph), BPI Securities Corporation (www.bpitrade.com), Citisecurities (www.citiseconline.com), Diversified Securities (www.dfnn.com), F. Yap Securities (www.2tradeasia.com) and RCBC Securities, Inc. (www.rcbcsec.com).

Lim expects more trading participants to offer online services and get a piece of the action from the growing remittances of OFWs as well as the increasing acceptance, familiarity and savviness of online-based transactions. Last year OFW remittances reached $10.7 billion and this year the amount is expected to reach $11.8 billion.

"I am encouraging the trading participants to set-up their online stock brokerage companies," Lim said. "If the PSE can capture even just 10 percent of these remittances, that would add significant activity to the market,"

But how do you start trading online?

"It is easy to open an investment account with an online broker," Lim explained. "Just access the website of an online broker, fill up an online application form, submit the necessary documents and information required, deposit the initial investment, and that's it. You are now ready to invest in the stock market—online, of course," Lim quipped.

What if you work in a country with a different time zone? "There are some online brokers that allow their clients to enter orders anytime even when the market is closed. This type of service enables those based in different time zones to also participate at their convenience." Lim explained "An OFW, say in the US or Canada, need not spend sleepless nights waiting for the PSE to open trading.

"All the OFW has to do is enter their off-hour buy or sell order online. Then he or she can go to sleep" Lim stressed. "The computers will automatically process the order and send it to the PSE for order execution when the market opens," Lim explained.

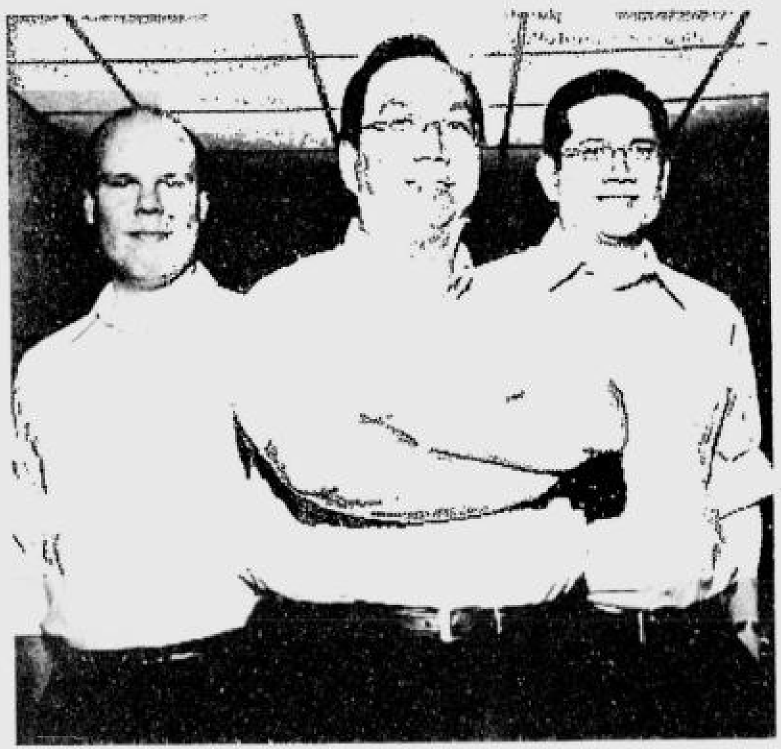
To purchase a stock online, one must have the funds available in his or her account with the online broker. Once the purchase is made, the amount is immediately deducted from his or her account. On the other hand, when one sells, the proceeds are accredited to his or her account within three days. Some online brokers complete this debit-credit process immediately so you don't have to wait that long to buy another stock.

Lim, however, urged would-be investors, whether conventional or online, to learn the rudiments of stock market investing before committing money into the stock market so they minimize the risk of getting burned.

Would-be investors can learn about investing by accessing online stock trading games. The PSE and the online brokers keep their respective online trading games on their websites.

Lim exhorted aspiring stock market investors to check out these games.

Enticing the middle market to try online stock trading



CitisecOnline.com's Juanis Barredo, Edward Lee and Dino Bate

ONLINE BROKERAGE FIRM CitisecOnline is pursuing a vigorous stock market education program as its advocacy to expand the retail investor market in the country. The campaign is primarily focused on middle-income earners including Overseas Filipino Workers, their beneficiaries and the workforce in the robustly growing business processing outsourcing sector.

"With the use of technology, CitisecOnline is providing a service to a market that has been underserved and neglected by the stock brokerage industry," explains Conrado Bate, president of CitisecOnline.com, Inc. The company hopes to present the great potentials offered by online stock trading to the investing public as Internet usage increases and the cost of connectivity decreases. While many other brokerages have acknowledged the size of the mid-income market, they have been discouraged by the economic benefits of servicing the middle income market. This niche has yet to fully appreciate the mechanics of the stock market. Moreover, mid-income earners have limited financial capabilities.

"But information technology has now made it much more cost effective to reach out to mid-income Filipinos," according to Bate. "It has also made it easier for them to appreciate the stock market through the information and analysis we make available to them."

CitisecOnline's best in class features and online tools help its customers make better informed investment decisions. The site displays the real-time ticker, most actively traded stocks, the relevant headlines and analysis of listed companies, as well as a watchlist of favorite stocks that an investor can track throughout the trading day. Particularly attractive to novice traders are the research notes that describe company developments. These are followed by CitisecOnline's analyst views of the impact of events on the stock's share price and better yet a recommendation to buy or sell the stock.

CitisecOnline hopes to demystify the stock market for the average Filipino earner, relates CitisecOnline chairman Edward Lee. The company appears to be succeeding as evidenced by the growth of its subscriber base. Since the end of 2005, customer base of CitisecOnline has more than doubled.

As part of its investor education campaign, CitisecOnline conducts free seminars on stock market investing and how to successfully trade online. Seminars are held regularly at its Ortigas Center office in Pasig. The online trading firm also rolls out the same seminar to companies and schools that can gather a critical mass of potential investors. It has likewise made presentations to large audiences in key cities like Cebu, Baguio and Iloilo.

Being in its early growth stage, the company proceeds to expand its services and products. The positive customer feedback has pushed management to introduce more products, services and functionalities that can make investing a more convenient experience. Subscribers can also call service representatives who can help clients navigate the site.

Interested subscribers may avail of a seven-day trial period through www.citiseconline.com. CitisecOnline holds seminars at its headquarters at Rm. 2701-A East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. There are only 30 slots available per session. To register, call 6-333-777 or email to Helpdesk@citiseconline.com.

Leadership lessons from Lewis and Clark - II

From page B4

proved the funds.

In other words, Jefferson, the great mind and great president, took a dream and started mentoring a person according to his dream before it became a reality. Jefferson's foresight reminds me of one of my favorite quotes by John Wooden, "When opportunity comes, it's too late to prepare."

The first responsibility of the mentor is to prepare others for their future.

The best way a mentor can prepare another leader is to expose him or her to other great people. In the years prior to his famed journey into the American wilderness, Meriwether Lewis was Jefferson's personal secretary and constant dinner companion.

I love the statement historian Stephen Ambrose uses to describe the dinners hosted by Jefferson: "Every philosopher, scientist, geographer and military expert that the country had to offer came to those dinners." Through these social dinners, Jefferson was able to acquaint Lewis with the leading minds in America.

In actuality, the concept of one person mentoring another is idealistic. No single individual possesses the requisite skills to fully mentor a rising leader.

Realizing their limitations, great mentors not only share from a personal reserve of experiences and knowledge, but they also connect their pupils with other authorities and experts to lend exposure to additional thoughts and ideas, just as Jefferson did for Lewis.

Preparation consists of many exercises.

In the writings of eminent historian Stephen Ambrose, we see the diverse experiences of Lewis' training:

"He trained to use the sextants and the chronometer, and the instruments to aid in the mapmaking that he was charged with..."

"He studied medicine in Philadelphia under Dr. Benjamin Rush, a member of the American Philosophical Society, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and the most eminent American physician of the day..."

"Lewis studied botany under the author of the first textbook on the subject published in the United States..."

"He also talked with experts in geography and cartography, and by the time that he left St. Louis a year later, Meriwether Lewis had probably the broadest field of knowledge of any American save Jefferson himself."

Clearly, Meriwether Lewis was exposed to a process of continual exercises and had access to the finest minds of the day during his time of preparation.

Preparation provides confidence when facing the unknown.

In his wisdom, Jefferson prepared Lewis for the trip with the understanding that the expedition would encounter unknown experiences in the uncharted territory of the Louisiana Purchase.

With so much uncertainty in front of Lewis, Jefferson felt that he needed to do his best to give Lewis as much preparation as possible to instill the confidence that would be needed when the journey began.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Jesi or Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

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Leadership lessons from Lewis and Clark-II

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

HALFORD LUCCOCK RECALLED A BIOGRAPHY of Alexander the Great in which the writer described the panic felt by the Greek army when Alexander died.

They had followed Alexander across Asia Minor and stood facing the Himalayan Mountains that form a natural barrier separating northern India from the plateau of Tibet in China.

"And there they discovered that they had marched clear off the map. Their only maps were Greek maps. These maps showed only a part of Asia Minor. The rest of the map was a blank space."

The Greek army was not the first group to find itself in uncharted lands, nor was it by any means the last. Amidst globalization, a volatile job market, shifting economic realities, and technological innovations, the leaders of today frequently find themselves marching through unexplored and unmapped terrain. In these moments, no one has marked the road, no precedents have been set, and it falls upon the leader to blaze a new trail. How can a person prepare to lead effectively in such an uncertain environment?

Last week, we looked at the leadership of two great American explorers who dared to march off of the map of their familiar world: Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The improbable success of their Corps of Discovery was due to more than their on-the-spot genius.

Preparation preceded their expedition and paved their way to greatness. In this column, we'll examine Lewis' preparation under the tutelage of President Thomas Jefferson to find tried and true principles to aid our leadership journeys.

Preparation should begin with the dream, not with the reality.

Jefferson began to groom Lewis to lead the momentous expedition across America long before the Louisiana Purchase was even a possibility, and before Congress ap-

LEADERSHIP/B2-3

Meat, fish talk on

THE GOLDEN Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on meat and fish processing. The seminar will be held at the UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Ave., cor. Ylanan St. University of the Philippines Diliman Quezon City on July 15, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For questions call 952-40-28; 436-78-26; 952-29-34; 913-65-51 and 951-29-66

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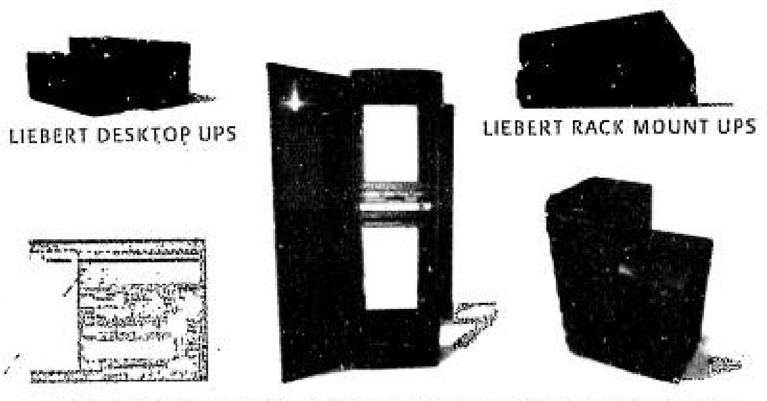

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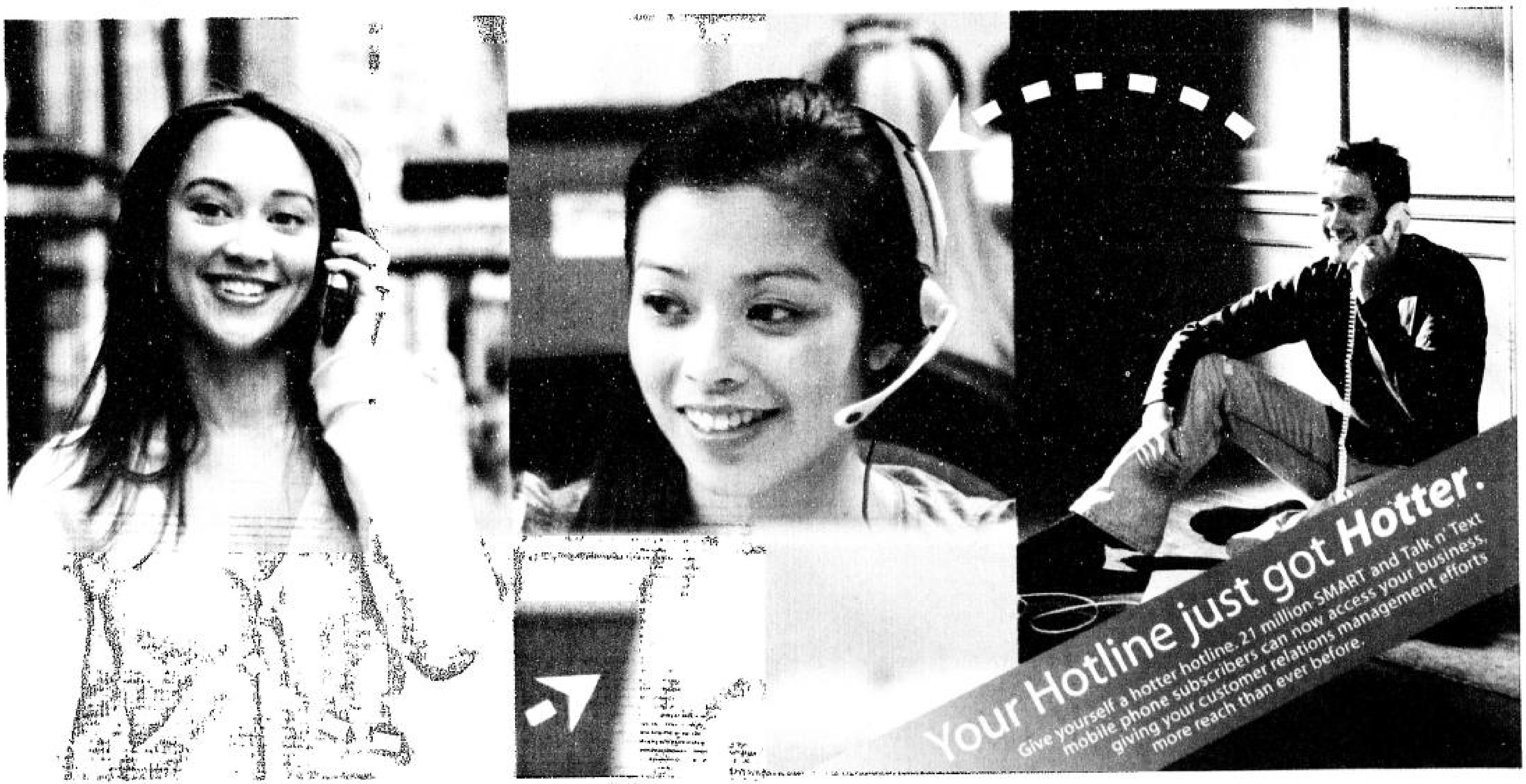
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'Hot' issues around National Artist Award

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

Was the hand of politics present in the award to action star Fernando Poe Jr. and to the Tausog sculptor Abdul Mari Imao?

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE, if any, of the National Artist Award to the youth? Are the students aware of who the National Artists this year are? Is the hand of politics always present here? Why are regional writers dropped from the final deliberations?

These were among the "hot" issues swirling around the latest "Sining Taktakan," a monthly forum of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Present were National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera and National Artist for Film Eddie Romero. Nanding Josef and Lilian Barco of the CCP served as panelists, with Ed Cabagnot of the CCP Films Division moderating.

Addressing the students (mostly from Philippine Normal University), Josef asked if the National Artist Award was relevant to them.

One student admitted that "it was not inculcated to us why this award is important and who these National Artists are." Another student said that "we have been overwhelmed by the new technology. Now we have an idea of our responsibilities [as future teachers] to inculcate the importance of this award."

Was the hand of politics present in the Award to action star Fernando Poe Jr. and to the Tausog sculptor Abdul Mari Imao?

Also speaking in Filipino, Lumbera observed that you could not separate politics and the fact that Poe was a presidential candidate from his movie career and his person/humanity ("*pagkatao*").

Romero, on the other hand, said "*siempre may* politics," but in the case of Poe, "it was the FAP (Film Academy of the Philippines) which initiated the move, no matter how Malacañang felt... it couldn't be stopped anyway. So there's no political consideration in that."

After a long process, the joint boards of the CCP and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) selected six names (out of 101 nominees) and sent these to Malacañang this year. The Palace approved the six, and added a seventh artist—Imao.

"Imao did not lobby for the award and he is deserving," declared Josef. There was no quarrel with that, as the accomplishments of the Muslim sculptor spoke for themselves.

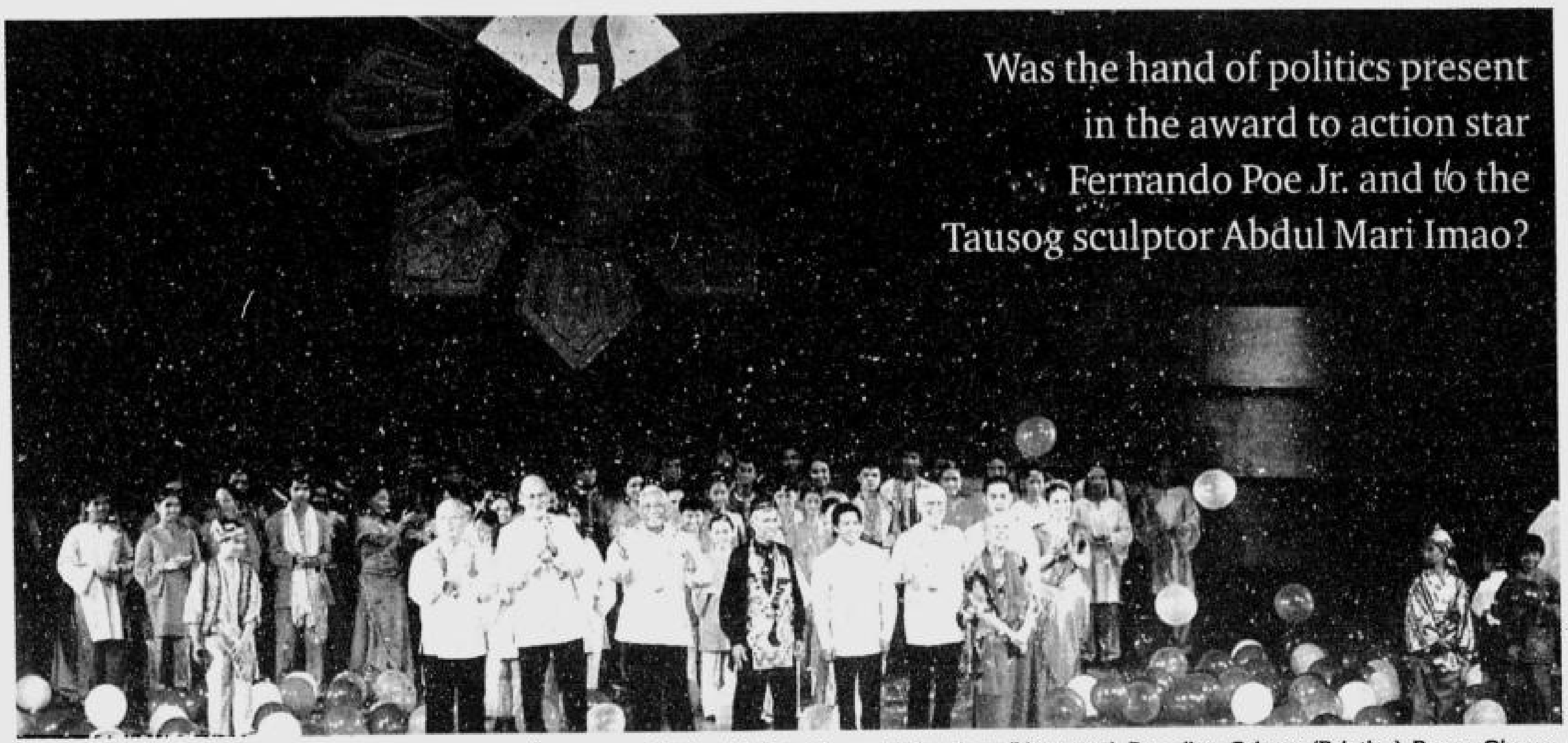
Lumbera called attention to another issue: Those who write in their own regional language—he cited the case of outstanding Ilongga poet Magdalena Jalandoni—often do not make it to the final deliberations, because the people in the committee don't know their works ("*dahil hindi kilala ng mga tao sa* committee").

Until this is rectified, the National Artist for Literature said, the nomination process will not be truly national, as the finalists are often those who write in English or Tagalog.

As for the critics outside Manila, Lumbera added, they usually write in English and they use Manila standards ("*pamantayan* Manila"), "which is mostly Western norm, the culture of Hemingway and Faulkner. They do not know the culture of the Philippines."

Art, Lumbera stressed, is not an activity for one's self. It is something that should be shared with your

'HOT' ISSUES/C2



AT THE CULTURAL Center, a colorful program pays tribute to new National Artists Bienvenido Lumbera (Literature), Benedicto Cabrera (Painting), Ramon Obusan (Dance), Abdulmari Asia Imao (Sculpture), Bryan Llamanzares (representing his deceased grandfather, Fernando Poe Jr., for Film), Ildefonso Santos Jr. (Architecture) and Lourdes Valera-Zulueta (representing her deceased brother, Ramon Valera, for Fashion Design).
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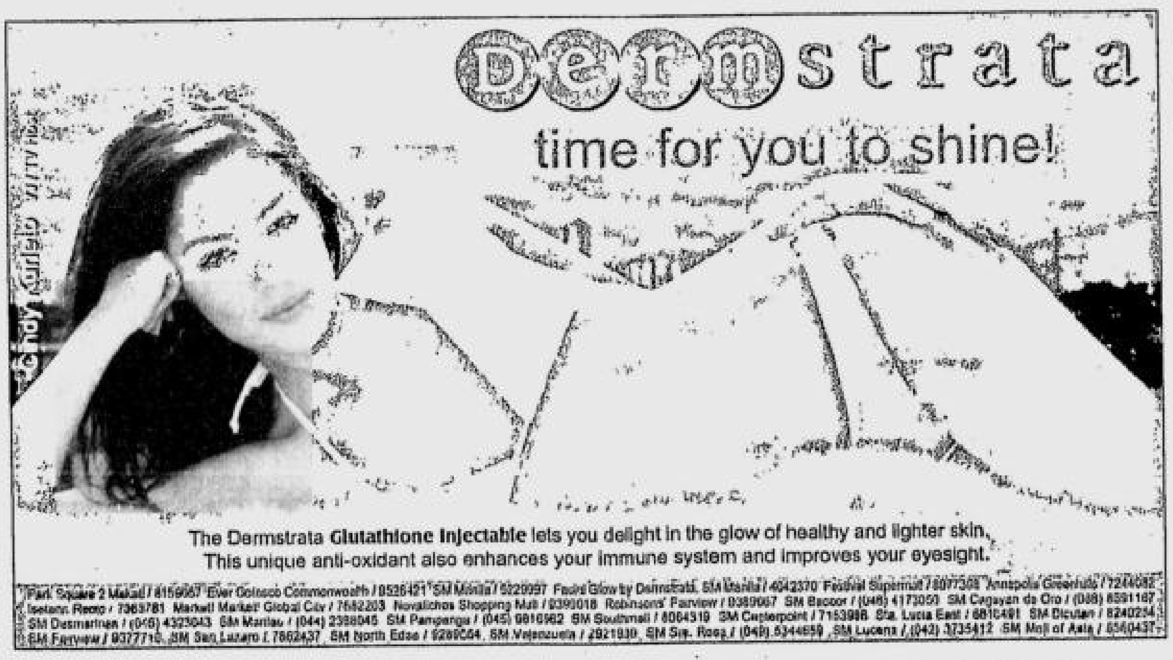
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Bacolod as music country

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

ONE FRIDAY NIGHT LAST month, I found myself in Bacolod listening to the post-concert open forum of the 12th "Romantic Piano Concerto Journey" of pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes.

The forum was held in an intimate hall of Sacred Heart Seminary. After excerpts from the Rachmaninoff, Brahms and Beethoven concertos, the audience—consisting mostly of young seminarians and music lovers from Bacolod—had a full serving of the Schumann A Minor concerto.

The concert opened with Mallotte's "Our Father," sang with inner fervor (and a capella) by Charles Kevin Tan.

The post-concert reactions varied. One said the music brought him to another world, another said the music allowed him to look into himself with detachment.

Seminary rector Fr. Jerry Alminasa said music was another way of making us feel about God's presence. Msgr. Guillermo Gaston (cousin of the first and last Filipino mezzo of consequence, Conchita Gaston) agreed that music should be part of everyone's growth.

CONCHITA Gaston with Leonard Bernstein in 1956

After the concert, there was sudden interest in piano playing and Reyes gave everyone hope by saying a great pianist actually managed his first recital at age 55!

On that same day in between rehearsals and performance, I visited L'Fisher Hotel where in the '90s I mounted concerts for Cecile Licad, Antonio Meneses, Andrew Fernando, Makie Misawa, Gary del Rosario, Joseph Esmilla.

The hotel brought back many musical memories. I must say Bacolod is a city that loves music.

I got the urge to visit Bacolod for the first time when I saw the Peque Gallaga film "Oro, Plata, Mata," which featured operatic arias in its crucial scenes.

And so I joined a Manila Symphony tour of Bacolod under conductor Gilopez Kabayao playing the Liszt concerto with Corazon Kabayao as a feisty soloist in the mid-'80s. While there, I checked possible concert venues.

I always like staying in the pension house of Carmen Kilayko, whose late doctor-husband was a cellist. When Ms Kilayko heard Brazilian cellist Antonio Meneses for the first time in Bacolod, she profusely thanked me not just for the music but for the cello which allowed her to recall happy musical days with her late husband.

I wondered why I felt so close to this Kilayko garden house. At one moment Ms Kilayko caught me staring in another room of the house, she pointed out: "That room was where soprano Helen Traubel stayed when she performed in Bacolod in the early '50s."

Traubel happened to be one of the greatest Wagnerian sopranos to appear in the American opera scene.

When I heard a 1949 Voice of America recording of mezzo soprano Conchita Gaston in Silay City many years back, I fell in love with the voice. No wonder Leonard Bernstein easily liked her.

I met and heard La Gaston briefly in 1980 when she was introduced to me and the Rumanian diva Nelly Miricioiu by the late music-loving lawyer, Honorario Poblador.

When I dropped by briefly at the Bacolod Cathedral, I recalled a dying Conchita Gaston trying to finish Gounod's "Ave Maria" with the remaining vocal strength she had but in vain. She collapsed, and a few months later, she passed way in the arms of her husband on the veranda of her Netherlands villa. It was death reminiscent of "La Traviata."

I brought baritone Andrew Fernando to the Gaston Museum in the late '90s. This was before his stint with LA Opera and the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts.

Santamaria and Reyes also capped their concerto journey in Negros in that historic Silay Museum last week. What was heartening was the presence of youthful offenders in the audience. Indeed, Msgr. Gaston was determined to bring music not just to the well-off but also to the socially marginalized.

My musical journey to Bacolod resumes on July 24, when two-time Namcya winner Oliver Salonga interprets Beethoven, Prokofiev and Chopin at the La Proa Ballroom of L'Fisher Hotel.

Salonga's first solo recital at the Philam-life last week was cheered by critics and music lovers alike. "A really amazing pianist!" said Sis. Maria Anunciata Sta. Ana, head of the College of Music and Performing Arts.

"There is no doubt this young Salonga will go very far as a pianist," said P.T. Martin, father of filmmaker Raya Martin.

For tickets to the Salonga concert in Bacolod City, call 9007023 or 0906-5104270.

> A concert by Reynaldo Reyes and Ingrid Santamaria shows how the South breathes music

OLIVER Salonga with Bianca Montañez (second from right) and other music scholars of the Philippine High School for the Arts

Here and there

Young Filipino cellist Victor Michael Coo is always in demand in music festivals abroad. He just came back from the Sarasota Music Festival. Next week, he returns to Fontainbleau in France for another festival engagement. He might come back to Manila in December for a solo recital.

Tenor Otoniel Gonzaga will have a concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra on Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Philam-life Theater. It is called "Christmas Spectacular with Otoniel Gonzaga." He will team up for the first time with conductor Rodel Colmenar.

To get early ticket discount, call 9007023 or 0906-5104270.

'Death and the Maiden' to be staged amid political killings

ACTOR'S ACTORS INC. (AAI) STAGES ARIEL Dorfman's "Death and the Maiden" with Bart Guingona, Michael Williams and Bituin Escalante on Aug. 4-6, at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza.

Dorfman's "Death and the Maiden" is a thriller about Paulina Escobar, who believes the stranger who comes to her home is the doctor who, under a military dictatorship, tortured and raped her many years before. Paulina loved the musical piece by Franz Schubert titled "Death and the Maiden," but grew to revile it when it was played repeatedly during her torture sessions with the doctor.

Dorfman began writing the play in the mid-1980s, when he was in exile from Chile, a country under the rule of the military dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet. It was not until Chile's return to democracy in 1990 that Dorfman returned to the play and "understood... how the story had to be told."

The play has special relevance in the Philippines, which, like Chile, has suffered under a similarly repressive regime. The play assumes new relevance today given that human rights are once more a hot-button issue after the February emergency powers, and the legacy of the martial law years being revisited due to the plan of the Presidential Commission on Good Government to strike compromise deals with the Marcos family over the latter's alleged ill-gotten wealth.

"Death and the Maiden," originally in Spanish, has been translated into numerous languages and performed around the world.

In light of the recent spate of prisoners' suicides at the Guantanamo Bay facility, the play seems not to have lost any of its power and relevance today.

The play, on its own, is a gripping, universal examination of the psychological repercussions of human-rights abuses. It derives its power from its taut, well-paced structure, and sharply drawn characters.

BART Guingona, Bituin Escalante and Michael Williams in Ariel Dorfman's "Death and the Maiden"

The idea for mounting "Death and the Maiden" was first brought up by Bituin Escalante. Feeling the need to stretch herself as an artist, she first approached director Bart Guingona, asking him to recommend a challenging role that she might study.

Guingona, known for his intense and intelligent productions, pointed out that studying a role was incomplete without it being performed before an audience. He then slyly tossed her the Ariel Dorfman script, recruited Michael Williams into the project, and squeezed one weekend's performance into their collective schedules.

Escalante is making her nonmusical theatrical debut in "Death and the Maiden." She takes on the role originally played by Glenn Close on Broadway, which won Close the Tony Award for Best Actress, and was essayed by Sigourney Weaver in the Roman Polanski-directed film version.

The character of Paulina is intense, driven and intelligent. The play revolves around Paulina's revenge upon those who had abused her. It is the kind of dream role that actresses would love to sink their chops into, and Escalante is no exception.

ESCALANTE and Guingona

She has plunged into rehearsals like fish into water, fully lending her native intelligence and innate confidence to the role. Having spent many years in the theater before moving over to television where she has earned stardom, she has made it a point to keep coming back to the theater to hone her craft, recognizing it as the true actor's medium.

Guingona, apart from directing the production, also plays Paulina's husband Gerardo (originally played by Richard Dreyfuss on Broadway) while Williams takes on the pivotal role of Roberto (originally played by Gene Hackman on Broadway, Ben Kingsley in the movie).

AAI's "Death and the Maiden" will be staged for only one weekend at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala cor. Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati. Performance dates are Aug. 4-5, 8 p.m., and Aug. 5-6, 3 p.m.

Tickets are available at Ticketworld, call 8919999 or text 0917-5289746.

UST Philets cites 'Gulong ng Palad' writer, other outstanding alumni

FIVE OUTSTANDING GRADUates of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (now Faculty of Arts and Letters) of the University of Sto. Tomas will be honored at its annual reunion on July 8 at the Quezon City Sports Club.

The five awardees will receive Golden Owl medals from former information minister and press secretary Greg Cendaña and Evelyn Sebastian-Peplow, chair and secretary of the Philets Foundation Inc.

The Philets Foundation Inc. presents the Golden Owl Award to alumni who excelled in their respective fields of expertise.

This year's awardees are Nita Umali Berthelsen, Loida Flores Virina, Pacita S. Almario, Rey M. Datu and Crispin C. Maslog.

Berthelsen of Class '46 will receive the Golden Owl Award for print journalism in recognition of her perceptive columns and essays in the weekly magazines of the Manila Chronicle, Philippines Herald, Manila Times and Taliba, and publications in Denmark, her second home.

Virina, Class '53, is recognized as a broadcast communicator for her consistent work in writing scripts for outstanding radio and television programs, such as "Gulong ng Palad," "Home Along da Riles" and "Home Along da Airport," and "Flor de Luna."

Almario, Class '54, is awarded for her dedicated service to overseas Filipino workers through the Good Shepherd apostolate and to disadvantaged parents through her leadership of the Solo Parents program of the Christian Family Movement.

Datu, Class '65, is recognized for investment banking and his support for humanitarian causes.

Maslog of Classes '55 and '60 is awardee for education. A postgraduate degree holder from University of North Dakota, he has been visiting professor at several American and Asian universities.

He was training consultant of the Philippine Press Institute, dean of the Asian Institute Journalism and Communication, founding director of Silliman University's School of Communication, and professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Maslog has written 20 books on communication and is currently working on another book. He is considered the father of development communication in the Philippines.

Peplow chaired the screening committee for the Golden Owl Award, with Ma. Luisa Zumel-Lopez, Roger Buhay, Arturo Dimayuga, Milagros Araneta, Vicente del Fierro Jr. and Alice Colet-Villadolid as members.

Call Cendaña, 9395538; Eli Cinco, 9320311; Peplow, 5358026; Buhay, 6471076; and Dimayuga, 6471254.

'Virgin Labfest' at CCP

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF the Philippines, Tanghalang Pilipino and the Writer's Bloc, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, are mounting the second edition of "Virgin Labfest," a festival of unpublished and unstaged works, on July 7-16, at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute.

The "Virgin Labfest" 2 features 15 new plays culled from the yearlong regular series of readings by the Writer's Bloc, and penned by new playwrights.

On July 7 at 8 p.m., three new works are featured.

DULAANG Sipat Lawin in a scene from F. Sionil José's "Pragres"

On July 8 at 3 and 8 p.m., three previously staged plays on people slowly losing their minds will be mounted: "Pragres," an adaptation of an F. Sionil José short story ("Progress"); Alfonso Dacanay's "First Snow of November," the Palanca-winning adaptation of Bienvenido N. Santos' "The Day the Dancers Came"; and Rody Vera's "Ang Unang Aswang." The Dulaang Sipat Lawin Ensemble and J. William Herbert Sigmund Go direct these plays.

People in peril are featured in a trilogy on July 9 at 3 and 8 p.m.: Layeta Bucoy's "Ang Anak ni Gloria," directed by Teresa Jamias; Rogelio Braga's "Maganda Pa ang Daigdig," directed by George de Jesus III; and J. Dennis Teodosio's "Baka Sakali," directed by Catherine Racsag.

On July 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. is a set of plays about people caught in desperate situations: Nicolas Pichay's "Tres Ataques de Corozon," directed by Vincent de Jesus; Rody Vera's "The Return of Flor," directed also by Vera; and Rene O. Villanueva's "Isang Dakilang Mamamayan ng Republika," directed by Regina Ronquillo.

Plays highlighting hope will be showcased on July 15 at 3 and 8 p.m.: Debbie Ann Tan's "Dragon's Breath," directed by Victor Villareal; Job Pagsibigan's "The Palanca in My Mind," directed by Roobak Valle; and Niel de Mesa's "Pag-uwi 'Pag Undas," directed by Tuxqs Rutaquio.

On July 16 at 3 and 8 p.m. is a trio of plays on sex: Liza Magtoto's "Hubad," directed by Denisa Reyes; J. Dennis Teodosio's "Payb-Siks," directed by Phil Noble; and Argel Tuason's "Palabas/Exit," directed by Rolando Inocencio.

The Virgin Labfest 2 features some of the country's most brilliant thespians from Peta, Gantimpala Theater, Dulaang UP, Dulaang Talyer, Dulaang Sipat Lawin, and Tanghalang Pilipino.

Tickets are at P150. Call Tanghalang Pilipino at 8323661, 8321125 locals 1620/1621, 09209535381; or Ticketworld at 8919999.

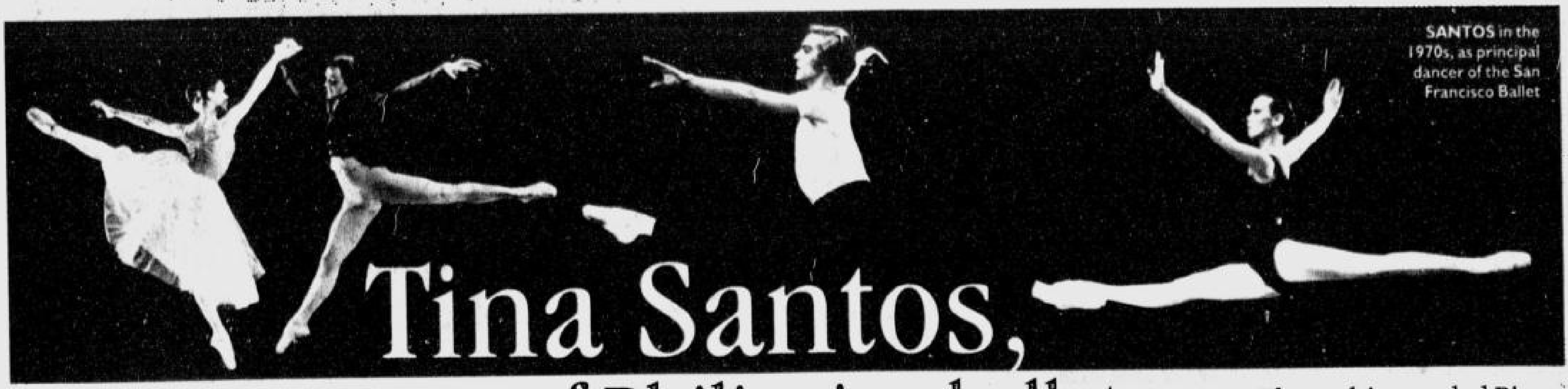
'Hot' issues around National Artist Award

From page C1

fellowmen, fellow Filipinos ("*kapwa Pilipino*").

Josef noted with some dismay that there were only a handful of students present from the Visayas and Mindanao. He advised them "to find out your roots, you may be from the South, and connect your aesthetics to these roots. And then this [National Artist Award] will be an inspiration for all of you. This award is not just ceremonial, you know."

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo confers the 2006 Order of National Artist for Sculpture on Abdulmari Asia Imao at the awarding ceremonies in Malacañang. LYN RILLON



SANTOS in the 1970s, as principal dancer of the San Francisco Ballet

Tina Santos, a gem of Philippine ballet, comes home

The multi-awarded Pinay dance educator in the US has held homecoming ballet classes for young Filipino dance aspirants

By Clarissa Mijares
Contributor

IN 1968, THERE WAS A REnaissance in classical ballet in the Philippines, after a 10-year ban that almost caused the demise of this beautiful art. And in the midst of this reawakening was an 18-year-old emerging ballerina, the tall and lithe Tina Santos.

She was the gem of the newly formed Dance Theater Philippines, founded by the triumvirate of Julie Borromeo, Tita Radaic and Eddie Elejar.

Danish ballet master Poul Gnatt guided the company for its first program at the Meralco Theater (that was before the CCP had been built by Imelda Marcos). He followed the format and program which he also used in establishing the Royal New Zealand Ballet a decade before, including lecture demonstrations in schools, aside from theater performances in Metro Manila and the provinces.

After Gnatt's guest stint in Dance Theater Philippines, the three young founders, Julie, Tita and Eddie, conceived of an entirely Philippine ballet program. And it was inevitable that Tina Santos would play a central role as its youngest and most vibrant ballerina.

She was cast as soloist in Borromeo's "Zagalas de Manila" and "Kalingan"; in Radaic's comedy ballet "Tanan," where she was in her element as an actress-dancer. She also danced a lead role in Elejar's "Indarapatra," an exotic ballet based on a Muslim myth.

In one of their sorties in Mindanao, in the Muslim village Talungsakay, Zamboanga, Tina Santos gave an impromptu performance in the plaza after the company watched the local Muslim dance teacher teach his regular afternoon class for children and teenagers. Tina started with a little balletic dance, then went on to do a little jazz and ended up with "a-go-go" that sent the village audience into excited applause.

That is Tina Santos—actress, dancer, comedienne, all rolled into a zest for life. Aside from being a ballerina, she also appeared on television, on the ramp, on magazine covers and in musical theater productions.

She is married to former dance partner Gary Wahl and has a daughter, Nikka, who is a scholar at the Florida State University's Music Theater Program. Tina resides in Miami, Florida, where she is a celebrated dance teacher.

Tina began her professional career in dance here in the Philippines. She trained under the watchful eyes of Joji Felix, Israel Gabriel, Radaic and Gnatt, and, in 1968, became a founding member of Dance Theater Philippines.

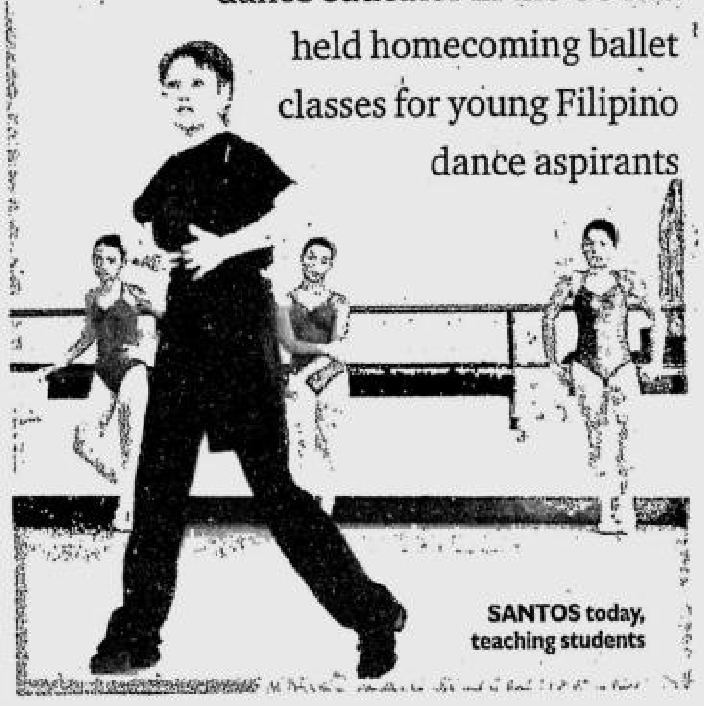
Tina joined the Harkness Ballet of New York in 1970 as a member of the corps and was promoted to soloist six months later. She extensively toured Europe and the USA with the company and this bolstered her status in the Harkness Ballet.

She and her husband joined the San Francisco Ballet as principal dancers in 1973. Tina was well-known for her versatility on stage. Critics commended her for her acting skills and her virtuosic dance technique. She could shift effortlessly from comic to dramatic roles and was technically competent in classical ballet, Balanchine ballets, jazz and modern-contemporary.

The Sunday Times Magazine

CENTER STAGE FOR TALENTED TINA

TINA SANTOS on the cover of the Sunday Times Magazine on the week when martial law was declared in 1972 (above). The issue never got out. (Below) In a US ballet magazine special



SANTOS today, teaching students

Top US dance educator

Tina was elected as one of the 10 Outstanding Young Women of California in 1978, and awarded a Medal of Distinction in Dance by the Manila Commission on Arts and Culture the following year.

In the '80s, Tina taught students and professional dancers in major schools in the San Francisco Bay Area before she became a Resident Faculty of the Harid Conservatory in Boca Raton, South Florida. Marcelo Gomez, now a principal dancer of American Ballet Theater, was her student at Harid Conservatory.

MARIN SCOPE

ballet season special

Tina Santos and her Siberian husky Kaska

She is a full-time faculty member of the New World School of the Arts in Miami.

Having studied with ballet masters of varying systems such as Gnatt (Danish); David Howard, Ben Stevenson, Terry Westmoreland and Kathleen Crofton (British); Perry Brunson (Cechetti); Richard Gibson, Tatiana Grantzeva, Alexander Minz (Russian); and Lew Christensen (Balanchine), Tina has developed her own style of teaching that emphasizes purity of movement and unmannered technique. A Dance Magazine critic described her classes as "energetic, musical, positive, tough and precise."

She has won five Teacher Recognition Certificates sponsored by the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts (1996-1999 and 2003-2004). She has served in the Florida State Division of Cultural Affairs on its Dance Organizations Panel and was an Onsite Evaluator for Miami City Ballet. Tina Santos is an honoree in the Who's Who among America's Teachers in 2004.

Rare Manila visit

Tina Santos was in Manila for several weeks in June, conducting master classes organized by the National Ballet Syllabus Inc., with the help of NBS teacher/examiner Violeta Velasco. The classes were held in Manila's top ballet schools: the Radaic School of Classical Ballet in STC, Quezon City; Sofia Elizalde's Steps Dance Studio in Makati; and at the Halili-Cruz School of Dance along Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The classes were packed with dancers from several dance schools including scholars of the CCP School of Dance, students of Toni Lopez-Gonzales (Makati), Chelo Borromeo-Gemina and the Claravall School of Ballet (Parañaque).

The young ballet dancers enjoyed Santos' style of teaching. She was witty and humorous when giving corrections and instructions. She was very particular with the dancers' use of music. She gave exercises with simple steps and tricky musical accents to develop the dancers' musicality.

Santos was also emphatic that the students not only execute the combinations but also to really "dance" them. She stressed that the class should already be a performance.

Aside from ballet technique, Tina Santos shared with the young dancers her love and passion for dance. She goes home to the US with these dancers looking up to her now as a role model. Wherever she goes she announces that she is proud to be Filipino.

Tina Santos has been invited to be an international examiner for the Philippine National Ballet Syllabus authored by Radaic, Noordin Jumalon and Vella Damian.

Lay evangelist Bo Sanchez in concert

TELEVISION PERSONality and Catholic lay evangelist Bo Sanchez is turning 40. Join him in his birthday comedy concert, "BoToks," at the Meralco Theater on July 8, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Through the concert, Bo is raising P3 million for the Anawim Scholarship Fund for poor children, the Kerygma Gawad Kalinga Village in Montalban, and He Cares Foundation for Street Kids.

Joining Sanchez in the concert are Kerygma preachers Mike Joseph, Arun Gogna, Alvin Barcelona, Obet Cabrillas, Jon Escoto, Adrian Panginaban and Rissa Singson.

You can learn more about "BoToks" by visiting Bo's website at www.bosanchez.com/botoks. You can even buy tickets from the website—and print it from there. Also call 7225962 or e-mail beacon@philonline.com now.

BO SANCHEZ

Mr. & Ms-July provides health tips

ARE YOU HEALTHY?

That is the question that Mr. & Ms poses in its special issue on health this July.

The July issue emphasizes the relationship of body, mind and spirit to fully realize true fitness.

Do you have a peaceful mind? Are you enjoying the benefits of a fit body? Are you reaping the advantages of a clean spirit? Mr. & Ms, as the Super-monthly of the Body, Mind and Spirit, helps you answer all those questions.

Here are some tips to achieve a fit and relaxed body:

Try walking! Everyone benefits from fitness walking. It is great for everyone, even for those already fit. Walking is one of the safest ways to condition your body, lose excess pounds, reduce stress and boost energy. You may even meet new friends! Read more about the advantages of this underrated aerobic exercise in the July issue.

Heed the benefits of Tai Chi. Tai Chi has both physical and psychological health benefits. For over 1,000 years, Tai Chi has been the secret of some Chinese families for having a long life. So in order to achieve the same, start doing the martial art, Tai Chi.

Find relaxation in the form of water. A wonderful spa in the metropolis features hydrotherapy treatments such as pool and jet showers that soothe those tired muscles. Did you know that water has special powers in rejuvenation by calming the lungs, heart, stomach and endocrine system by stimulating nerve reflexes on the spinal cord? Water therapy is all one needs to achieve relaxation.

Be healed using alternative medicine. A good doctor promotes the advantages of healing in a not-so-usual way. Using homeopathic medicines and alternative therapies, patients of the clinic are encouraged by the relief and hope they receive.

Seek the magic of thyme. The spicy herb offers a variety of benefits. Thyme is effective for colic, flatulence, sore throats, colds and it serves as a digestive aid. Mr. & Ms offers more information on thyme, plus recipes.

Watch your thoughts and prevent illnesses. "Since we cause our own illnesses, we can also heal ourselves... by changing the mental patterns that created our illness," says Louise Hay, author of Heal Your Body. A positive thought invites good physical vibes. Mr. & Ms invites you to start the optimism and discard the negativism.

Top celebrities Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda encourage everyone to start moving and start drinking... lots of water, that is. The two share some tips on how they have lost their unwanted pounds. Aside from the two, buffed and beautiful men—Piolo Pascual, Polo Ravales and cager Danny Ildefonso—reveal the secret to their healthy glow.

Other features are on Tarot cards, actor Aga Muhlach as dad, and St. Dominic de Guzman and the first Dominicans.

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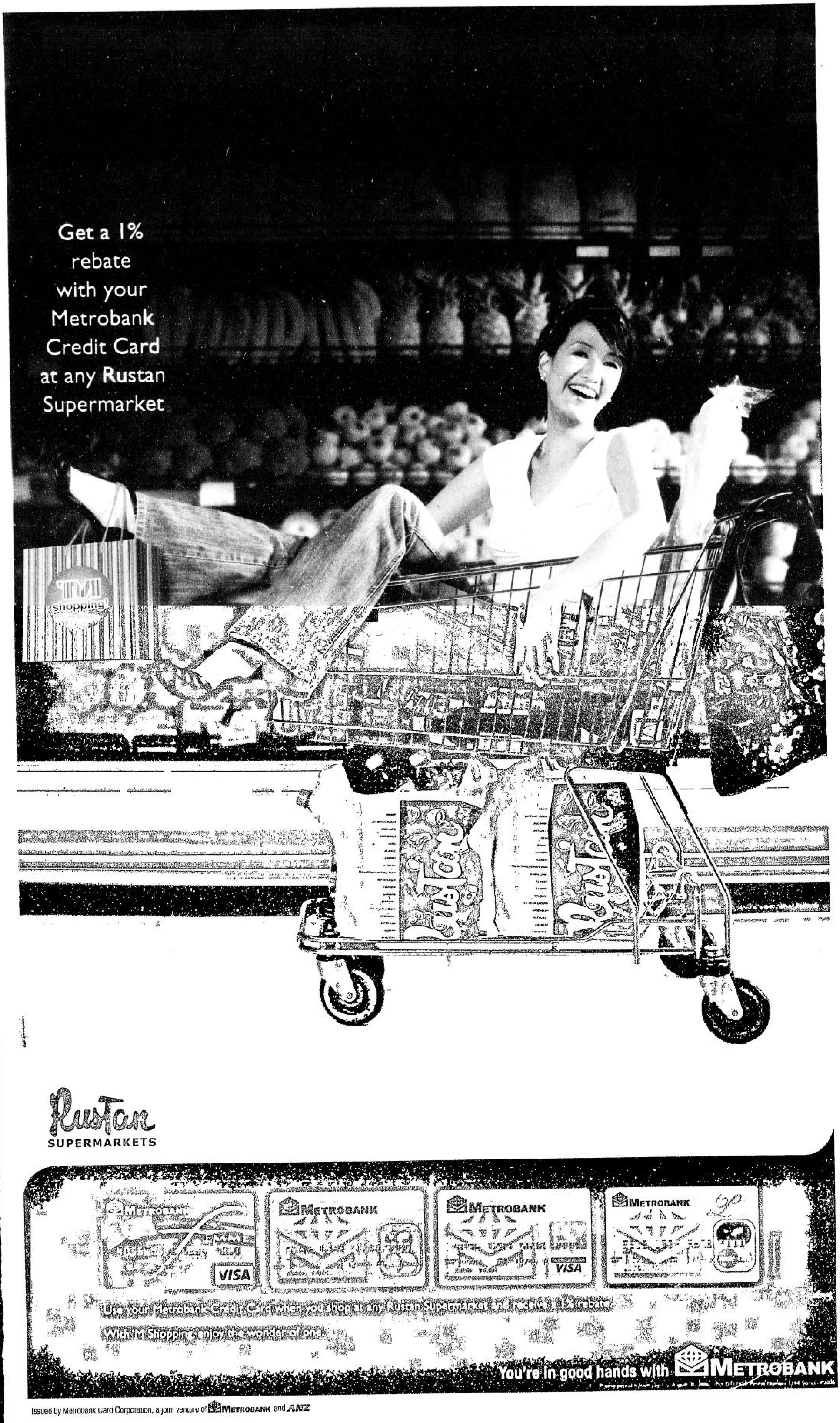

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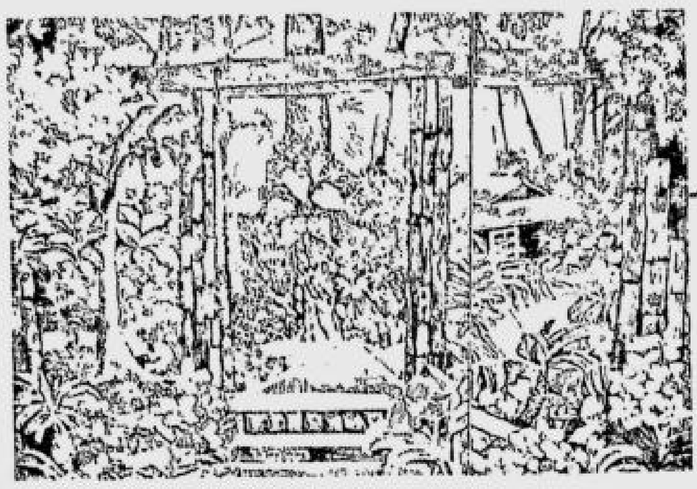
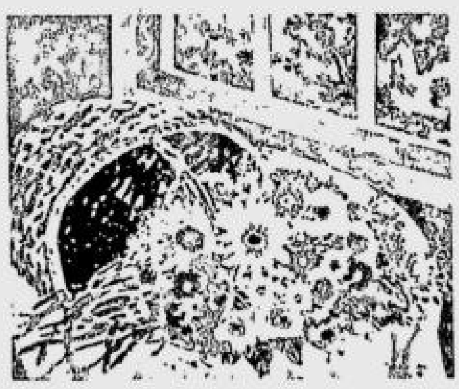
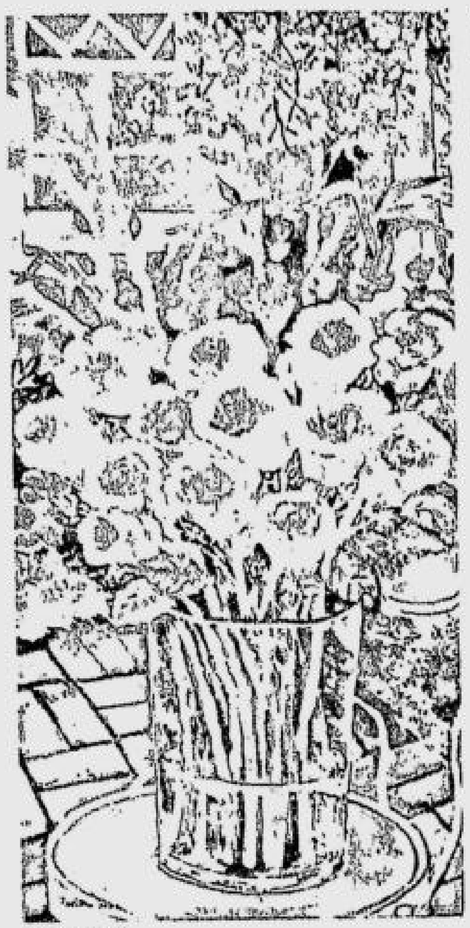


"BAGUIO Bed and Breakfast"

Flores de Fatima



"BOUQUET for You"



"BLOOM"

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

CANVASES BURSTING WITH BLOOMS whose petals are rendered by thick impasto strokes, their paint throbbing, possibly the visual metaphor for a myriad floral essences wafting invitingly, at once calming and invigorating.

Such is the impression a viewer may get from the works of Fatima Antonio that are featured in "Floral Offerings," which opens on July 5, 6 p.m. at Gallery Nine (tel. 6877302) in SM Megamall.

Fatima Antonio Baquiran has the art gene in her, being the daughter of distinguished artists Angelito Antonio and Norma Belleza.

Like her parents, Fatima studied at the former College of Architecture and Fine Arts (now College of Fine Arts and Design) of University of Santo Tomas, earning a degree in Interior Design in 1992. She began painting soon after college, almost immediately after giving birth to her first child. It could be said her art is the twin of her firstborn, and she has nurtured both since.

Quiet and unassuming like her mother, Fatima is flattered when critics and viewers note the similarity of her works to mom's. "*Syempre*, Norma Belleza *'yan*," (Of course! That's Norma Belleza!), she said. She admires her mom's works, particularly their composition.

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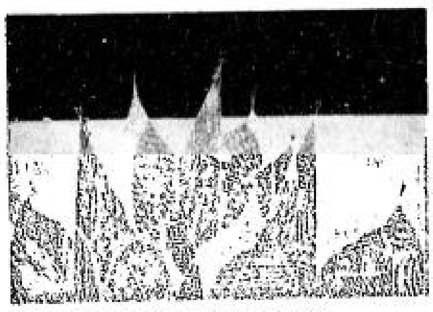
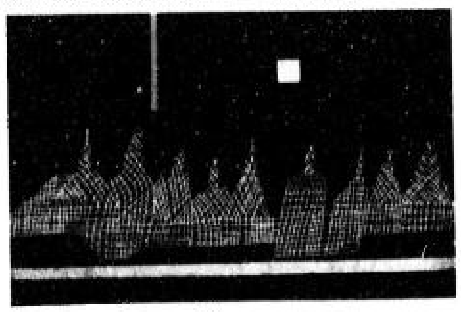
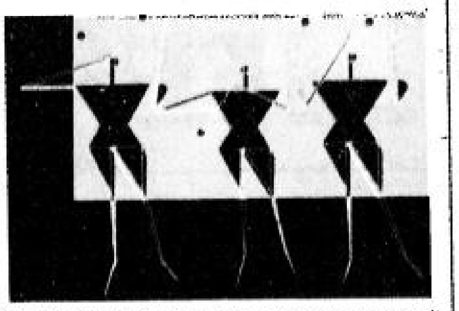


"PALITANA: White Temples II"

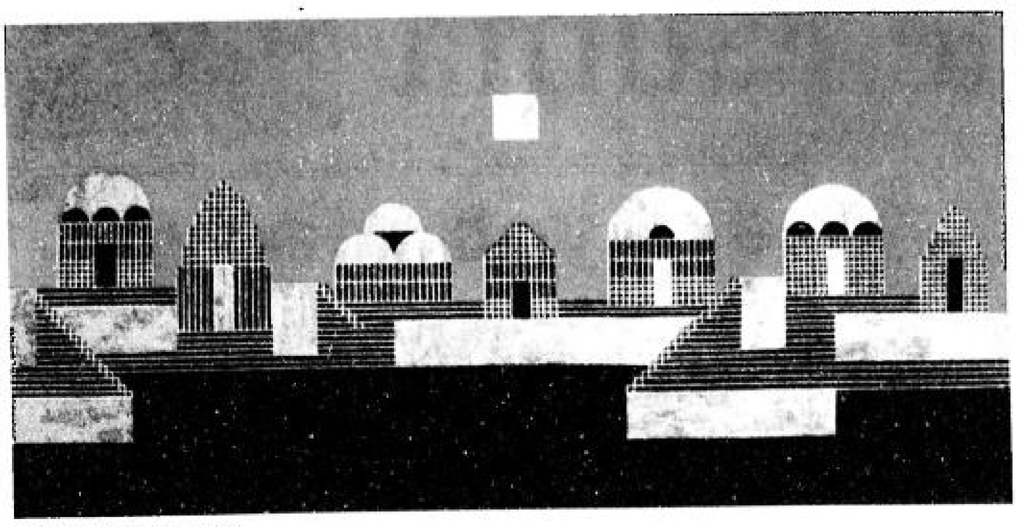


"GOLDEN Temples"



"PERFORMERS: Two Jugglers and a Musician"

Luz's 1995-2005 works on exhibit



"CITIES of the Past II"

A MAJOR EXHIBIT OF WORKS by National Artist Arturo Luz opens at 7 p.m., July 12, at The Centre Gallery of Galerie Joaquin Main.

Thirty-six paintings done by Luz from 1995-2005 will be on exhibit. Titled "Temples, Performers and Cities of the Past," the show mainly features paintings on these three themes.

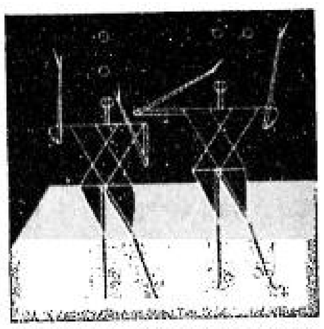
Luz started working on his "Temples" series after he went in 1988 on an extended trip to the Indian subcontinent, where he was impressed by its physical beauty. There he saw literally hundreds of Buddhist and Hindu temples.

What he found quite attractive were the architectural forms of stupas which, like their counterparts, the pagoda, are spiritual monuments designed to symbolize the enlightened mind and the path to its realization.

"Cities of the Past" came from his visits to sites of ancient civilizations in Asia such as Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Borobodur, the ancient capital of the Madjapahit empire in Indonesia, and Sukhothai, the ancient Thai capital in the 12th-14th century.

Located near Yom River, *sukhothai* literally means The Dawn of Happiness.

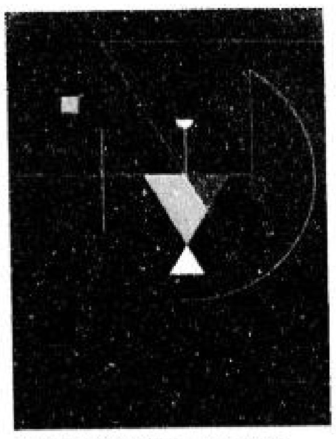
Built in the 12th century, Angkor Wat was the epitome of the high classical style of Khmer architecture. It was first a Hindu then a Buddhist religious center. Borobodur, in the Indonesian province of Central Java, is a Buddhist stupa related to the Mahayana tradition and is the largest Buddhist monument on earth.



"PERFORMERS: Two Jugglers"

The exhibit is in anticipation of the 80th birthday of Luz on Nov. 30. Luz was granted the National Artist award in the Philippines in 1997.

Noted for his linear, geometric abstractions, Luz was born in 1926 in Manila. He went to the University of Santo Tomas School of Fine Arts, then received scholarship at the California College of Arts and Craft in Oakland for a three-year diploma in art program. He continued his education at the Brooklyn Museum Art School in New York in 1950 and at the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris in 1951.



"VARIATIONS on a Juggler Theme"

Luz is recognized worldwide, having mounted several exhibitions abroad. He is three-time First Prize winner at the Art Association of the Philippines Annual Competition.

He also received scholarship grants from Spain in 1953, Italy in 1963, and the United States in 1963. He is also the recipient of the Republic Cultural Heritage Award for Painting in 1966; the Patnubay ng Kalinangan Award for Painting from the City of Manila in 1981; and the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Gawad for the Visual Arts in 1989.

He was awarded the Order of Chevalier des Arts et Letres by the French government in 1978.

Portrait of desire

By Constantino C. Tejero

JUST MENTION THE WORD *SEX* and there is sure to be a rush to see what's going on.

The gallery-goer, however, was somewhat unprepared for what Jerson Samson and Elmer Roslin had to show in their joint exhibit "Biglang-Likô," 10 pieces in oil on canvas, recently in The Crucible Gallery at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Both products of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, with Samson majoring in Painting and Roslin in Visual Communications, these young artists are realists with expressionist tendencies. In this exhibit, they have demonstrated they're up to the world of total reality.

In a series of five pieces each, Samson and Roslin have artfully situated the sexual act in cramped rooms of cheap motels, in a world of dark trysts, guilty secrets and one-night stands, so that what's supposed to be an expression of intimacy and affection becomes ugly, almost repugnant.

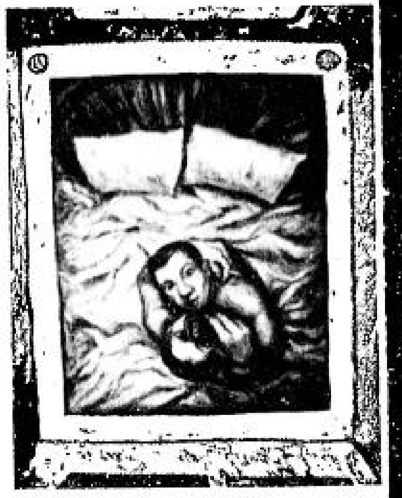
We don't know whether these are married couples, *magsyota*, DOMs and their *kabit*, or *pokpok* and their *parokyano*. We just sense that, the way it is depicted by Samson and Roslin, what they're doing is not right or proper.

Act of voyeurism

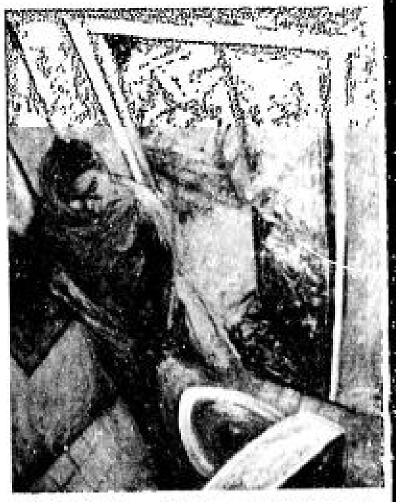
Far from tampering with the sexual act with postures and poses as what illustrators of romance novels and hardcore porn are wont to do, the two artists depict it as what it really is and succeed in making it look banal—so that the viewer stands dumbfounded between fascination and repulsion.

Although no genitalia is shown, not even a strand of pubic hair, and with only a peek of breast or nipple as a sign of erogenous zone, the gallery-goer somewhat cringes from guilt or shame. Because the artists have forced the viewer to play the voyeur.

Their eyes spare nothing. Their probing is such that what is private becomes public. And sometimes the subjects themselves play accomplices to the act of voyeurism.



"SOUVENIR," by Samson



"IHI LANG ang Pahinga," by Samson

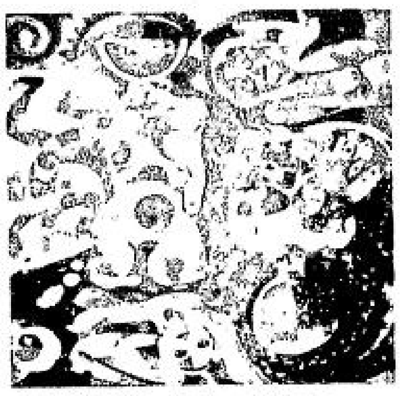
In Samson's "Souvenir," rendered in cold metallic gray, the copulating couple reflected on the ceiling mirror take a cell phone video of their sexual acrobatics.

In Roslin's "Sidhi," in flame-red and burnt orange, the frontal groping and mashing is so in-your-face the viewer is sure to take a breath and reflexively look away.

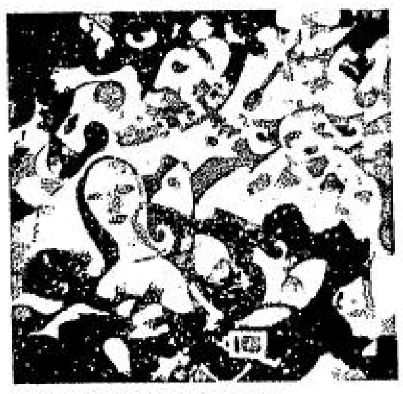
In Samson's "Short Time," two cou-

Woman as goddess and as abstraction

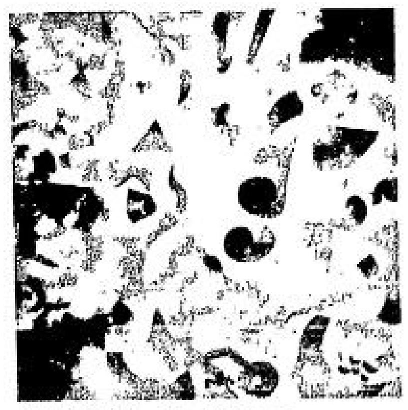
By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor



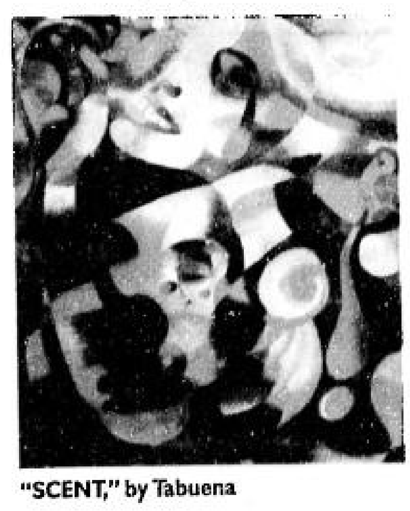
"PAKWAN," by Enrique Tabuena



"KISAPMATA," by Tabuena



"BIRTH Pains," by Tabuena



"SCENT," by Tabuena

TWO CONTEMPORARY FILIPINO artists working along contrasting genres have, by coincidence, chosen an identical theme for their solo shows, both also opening the first week of July.

Jun Martinez, born in a town near Bacolod, but has since lived in the Big City, pays homage to the goddesses that inhabit our local myths and legends.

Enrique Tabuena, an art director in a leading advertising agency in the Middle East, depicts the iconic woman in her manifold moods and charms.

An impressionist best known for his endearing work in watercolor, Martinez provides the two-volume tome "Myths and Legends of the Philippines" its essential character through his artworks. Most of his pieces are in oil on canvas, and a few are in watercolor, both with hardly any distinction in treatment, save perhaps for the size. He is ambidextrous in either medium.

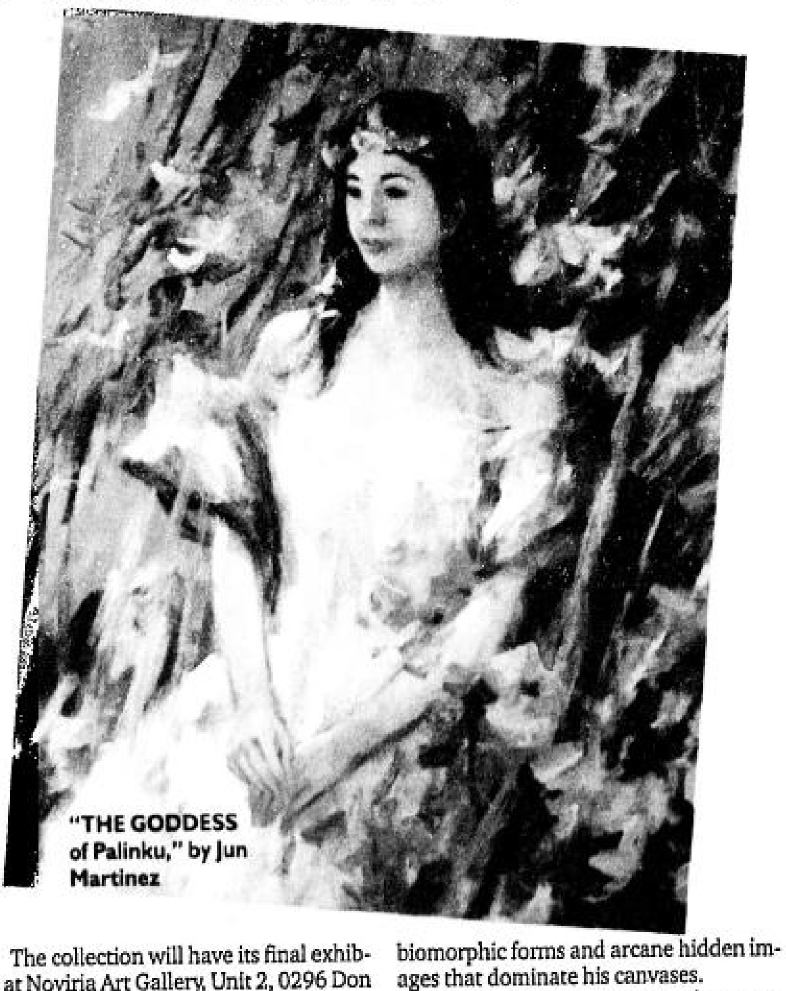
Extracting the image out of a well-known tale has its pitfalls, such as having to be unabashedly literal in illustration.

But Martinez, given his sense of delicacy and control, knows how to provide the quintessential spirit to the narrative. From the image of the waiting lovelorn princess in " The Goddess of Bai Palimu" to that of "Rajah Solaiman and Princess Putli," the artist wields firm control of his medium in driving home a number of key lessons.

Martinez has done similar stuff for several publications, but this particular book (published by Marlene Aguilar) hash touches of local color, not to mention the artist's predilection for *kayumangi* tones, an added asset to his figuration.

There is also his impressively dynamic brushwork, which was present in his previous illustrations of farm animals, such as the calendar published by Merial Philippines. It is a style that blends mellifluously with the narrative, shunning gimmickry or sensationalism.

This show of Martinez' works, which, by the way, coincides with the formal launching of the book, will be at the Artes Figuras Gallery on the ground floor of Piazza Soliven in Bacolod City.



"THE GODDESS of Palinku," by Jun Martinez

The collection will have its final exhibit at Noviria Art Gallery, Unit 2, 0296 Don Gil Garcia St., Capitol Site, Cebu City.

In Manila, the show at Metro Gallery, at 55 P. Guevarra, beside Café Ysabel, coincides with the re-launching of "Myths and Legends of the Philippines."

Women in abstraction

Enrique Tabuena's "Woman Is in the Details" (Astra Gallery, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air Village, Makati) consists of 35 oil paintings in the artist's quasi-abstractionist style.

The show focuses on the richly varied interpretation of women caught in varied moods and evolving personas.

Born in Sorsogon, Tabuena has developed a palette both rich and untrammeled in its approach. He attended the University of Santo Tomas, majoring in Advertising Arts, and graduated in 1988.

The influence of National Artist HR Ocampo on Tabuena is evident in the biomorphic forms and arcane hidden images that dominate his canvases.

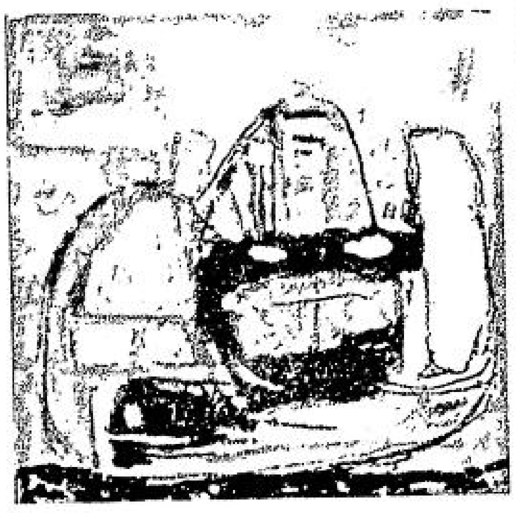
Tabuena has an exuberant color sense. Exploring every known facet of the prism, he experiments with coloration and its relation to moods and emotions.

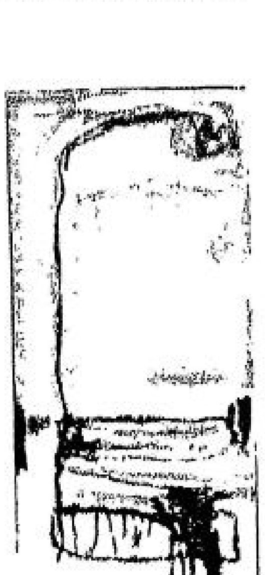
In what concededly is his best composition in the show, "Scent," Tabuena cleverly plays with the figure, cutting it up like random pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

The way he conceals and exposes bits and pieces of the composition may recall Kandinsky and Chagall, though he admits being most fascinated by the works of M. C. Escher, who upholds the supremacy of color for its own sake.

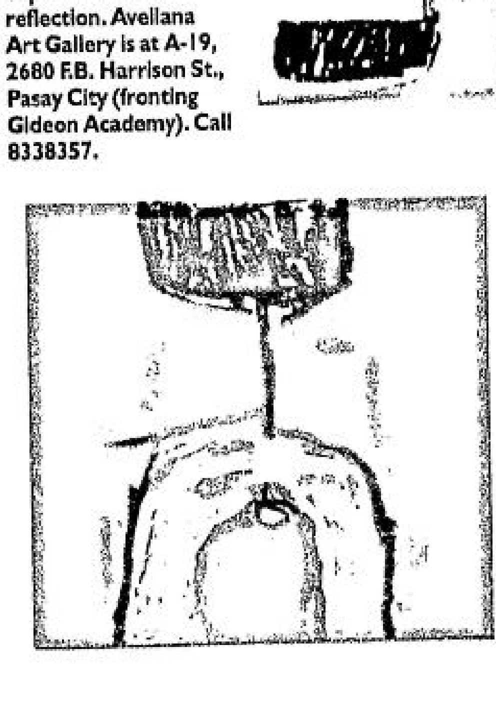
But the many other pieces in a show that celebrates 15 years of Tabuena's art engagement are no less exuberant, with their multi-image delineation and fine color aesthetics.

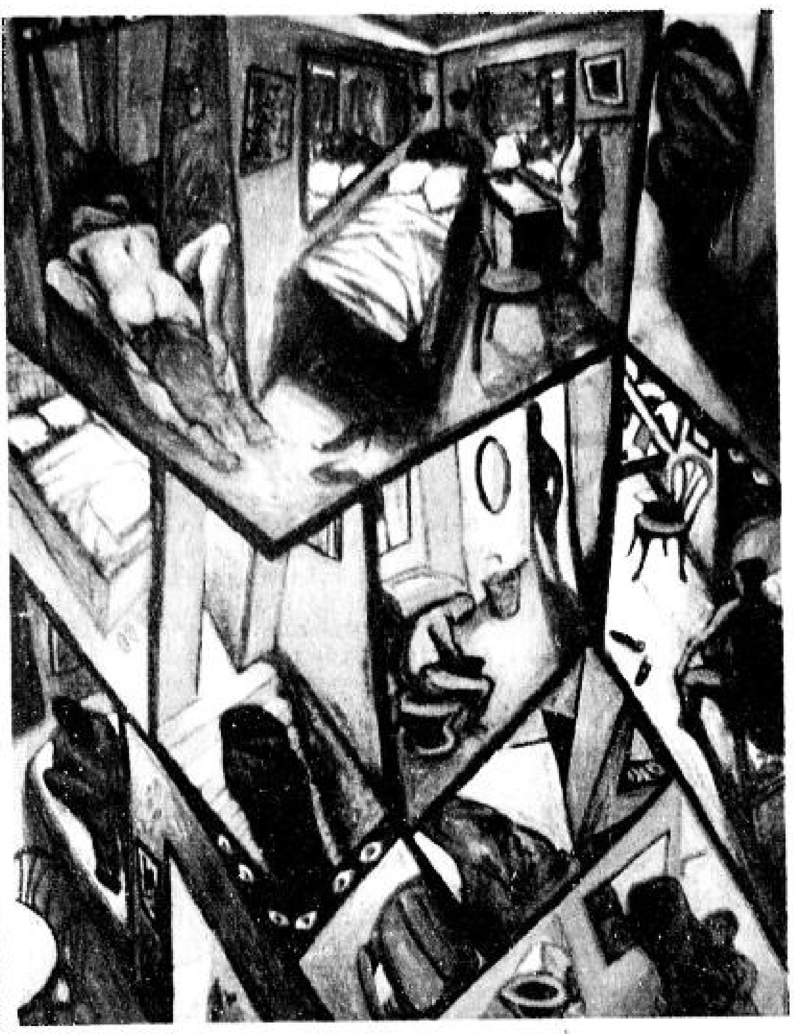
E-mail author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



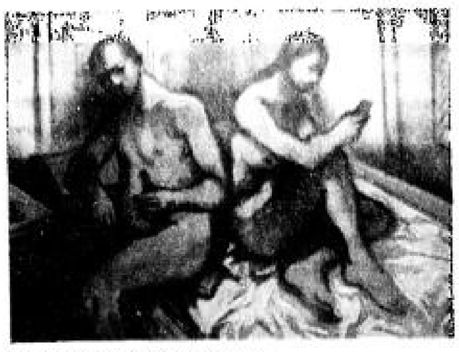


ON VIEW until July 15 at Avellana Art Gallery is Tosha Albor's "Why I Am Not a Painter." Titled after a Frank O'Hara poem, the exhibit explores the tentative journey of the artist into the indeterminate realm of abstracted line and color and how she, oscillating between the certainty of thought and gut-feel, comes up with an array of forms—airplanes, faces, layered presences—that dutifully marry experience with reflection. Avellana Art Gallery is at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

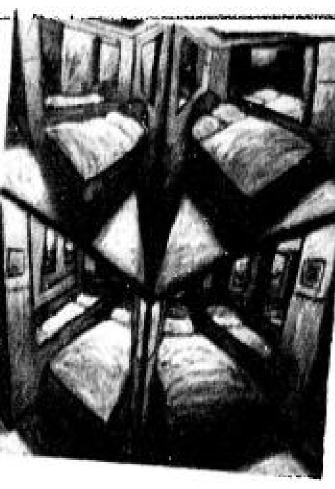




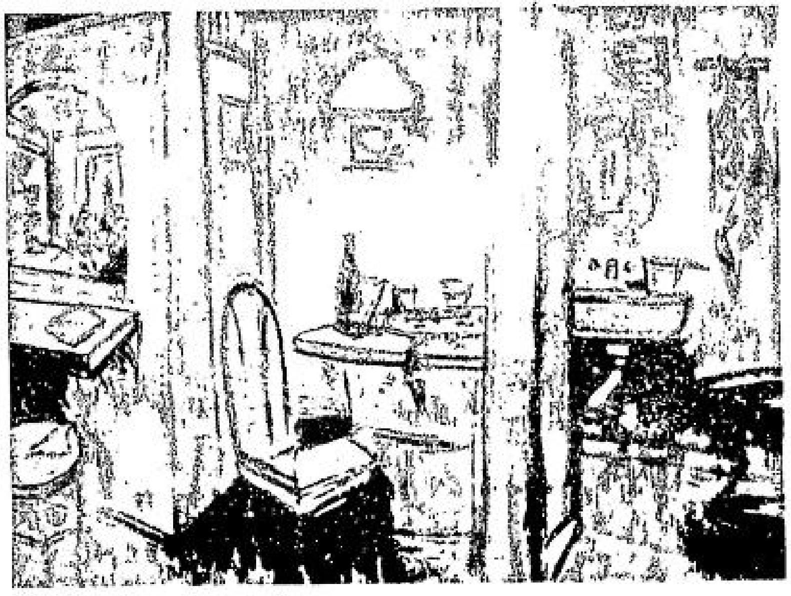
"JUGJUGAN Na," by Jerson Samson



"TAMPUHAN," by Roslin



"VIRGIN," by Samson



"TIRAHAN," by Elmer Roslin

ples are depicted in various sexual positions it borders on the lewd. Only the lighting, perspective and formal composition redeem it from the pornographic.

Home or brothel

In Roslin's "Init," at least, the man and woman remember to turn their backs to the audience while doing their thing. And in Samson's "Jugjugan Na," similar in imagery and composition to "Short Time," the scene is distanced so that the writhing figures are barely recognizable.

Some of these are sly portraits. Roslin's "Tirahan," partially showing a bedroom, foyer and toilet, is punning on the title to mean either a home or a place for fornication.

In his "Nasa Ibang Ulap," the couple's ostensibly passionate kiss and embrace take on a different meaning when the viewer notices that, while the man's eyes are blissfully closed, the woman's are wide open, probably seeing another lover.

Samson's "Virgin" shows nothing but beds in violet light in multiple mirror reflections. One looks closer and sees bloodstains on the white sheet of one bed.

In his "Ihi Lang ang Pahinga," a man takes a respite from sex by, well, taking a leak in the toilet.

Sweat and afterglow

There is poignancy in Roslin's depiction of a couple after sex in "Tampuhan." With backs turned to each other, he is holding a bottle of beer while she is texting on her cell phone. One can't be sure whether they're sulking, just exhausted, or plain bored. The afterglow can be found only in the lambent orange light on the wall.

Both artists demonstrate a strong narrative bent. Roslin employs conventional composition, proscenium-type framing and warm harmony, while Samson uses complex perspective, unusual angles and mostly cool colors.

In each piece, both have shown themselves to be accomplished colorists, in the harsh neon washes, flame-colored highlights, earth tones, chiefly in monochromes. Samson's colorism is the more incandescent of the two, while Roslin's can be radiant but is softer.

It is such expressive use of color that ruthlessly exposes this world of sweaty sexuality and hard-breathing desire.

The artists may seem cruel for stripping sex of its mystique, but they can't help it. It's just an everyday activity, after all.

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Art auction for women's health programs

SCHERING PHILIPPINE CORP. AND THE Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecology Society (POGS) are holding the art exhibit-auction "Woman in All Her Glory," featuring 30 paintings by Nemi Miranda and nine other Angono artists.

The paintings will be auctioned off during the jubilee anniversary celebration of POGS on July 6 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza (formerly Westin Philippine Plaza).

The artworks will be open to public viewing 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the foyer of the grand ballroom. A live auction follows 4-6 p.m. Proceeds will fund the various women's projects of POGS.

"I see beauty in an older woman," said Nemiranda. "Beauty, or sexiness, is not in the features or body contours. It's not superficial, it's something deeper."

Other artists in the exhibit are Atoy Apostadero, Jovito Andres, Keiye Tuazon, Paulo Miranda, Abe Lucas, Entes Magpusao, Bing Siochi, Paul Dimalanta and Ernie Patricio.

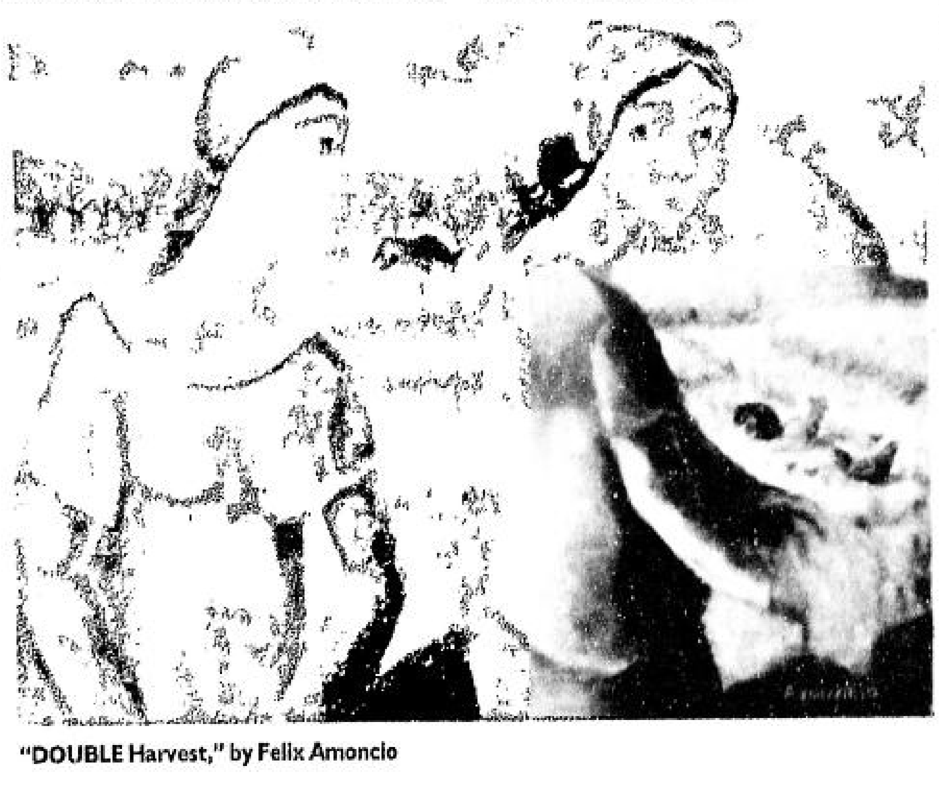
ANGONO artist Nemi Miranda

Amoncio and Espiritu go 'One on One'

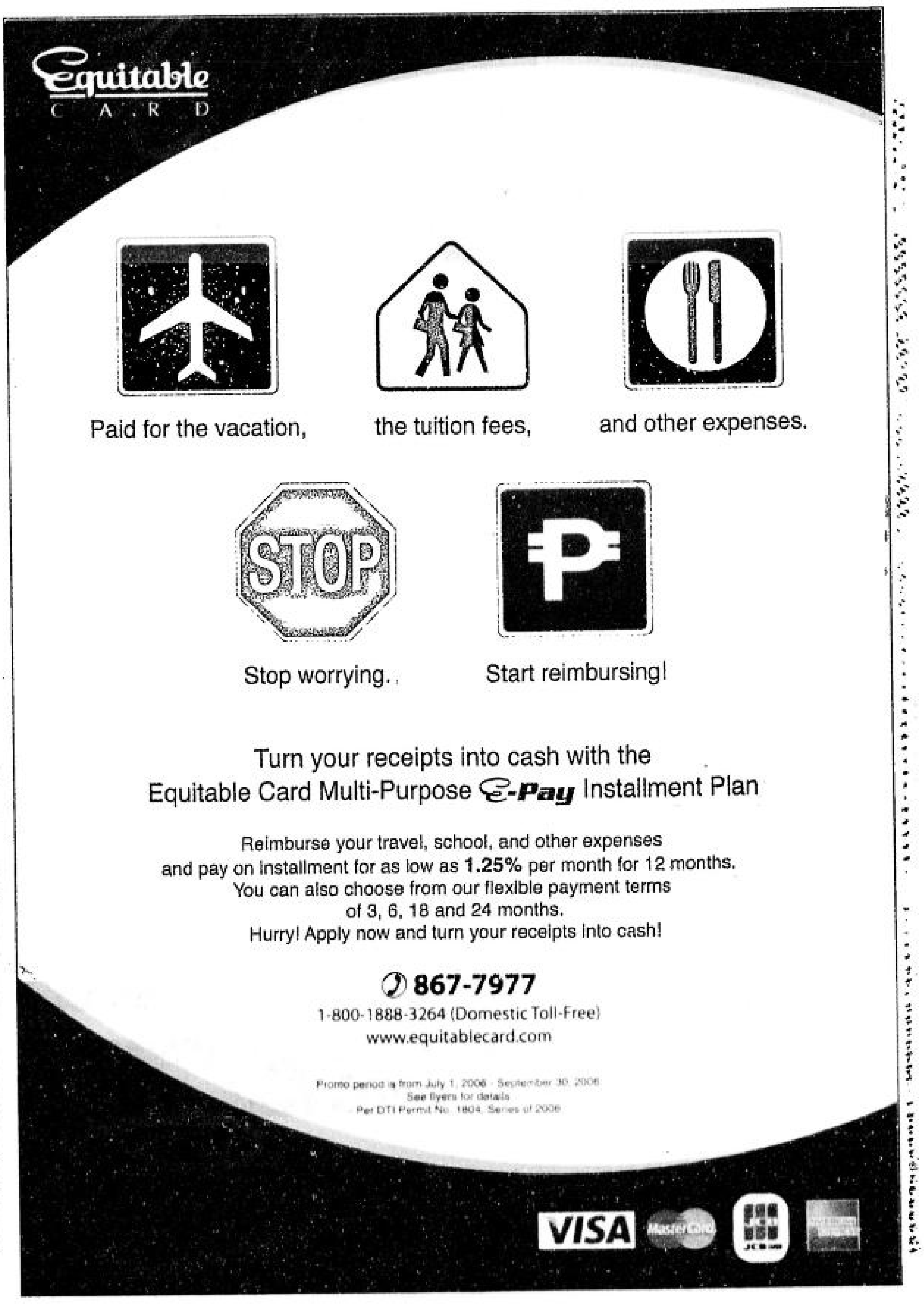
FELIX AMONCIO AND JUN ESPIRITU ARE holding a joint exhibit, "One on One," which marks the anniversary of Galeria Fernando at the lower level of Casa Susana, Casa Vicente Bldg., Madrigal Avenue (beside Alabang Town Center).

Both artists depict similar scenes and themes, but Espiritu's works are characterized by light and bright hues and arched lines that result in faces with pointed foreheads. They contrast with, yet complement, Amoncio's works featuring women with prominent chins and painted in earthy colors.

The show is extended until July 8. Call 8506963 or 0928-2188516.



"DOUBLE Harvest," by Felix Amoncio



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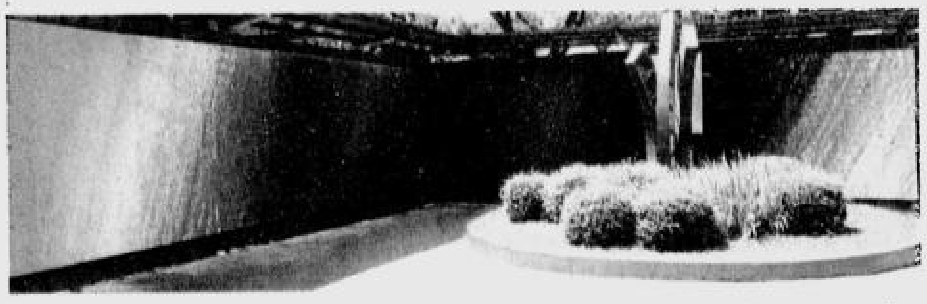
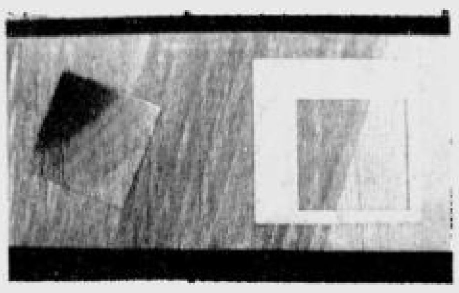
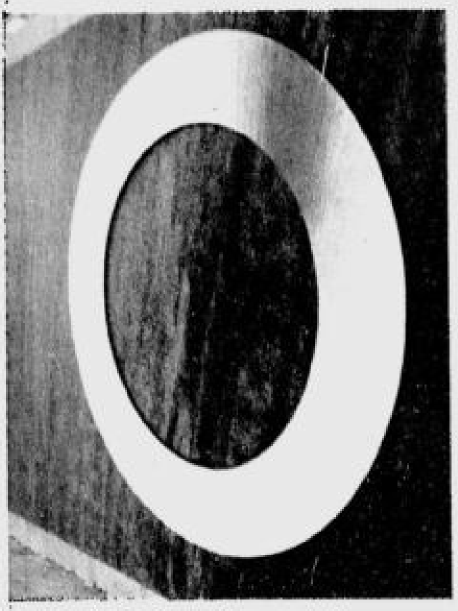


ART showcase is along the perimeter walls

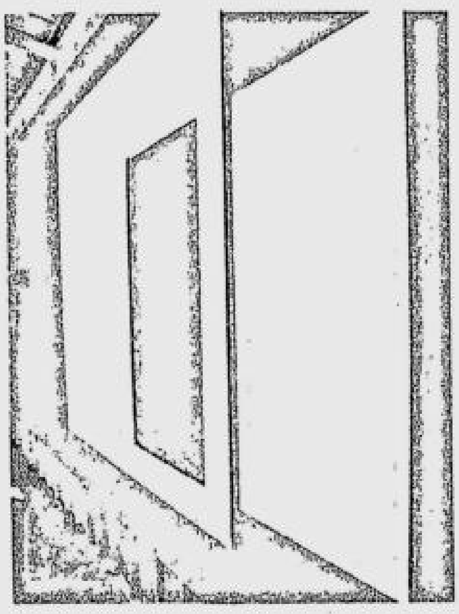


THE WORKS use industrial paint in a kaleidoscope of modulated colors.

Eye-catching spectacle in center of commerce



GEOMETRIC shapes characteristic of Vinluan's work evoke the geometries of nature.



ALONG THE FRINGES OF THE SOON-to-rise Greenbelt 5, bordered by Legaspi Street and the inner courtyards and covered walkways of Greenbelt 1, visual art has become an eye-catching everyday spectacle.

Once the marked domain of museums and galleries, high art has gone public; expanding its illuminating grasp to the realm of random pedestrians, and introducing a cheerful mélange of colors to their mundane routes.

The man behind this onslaught of accessible "street art" is Nestor Olarte Vinluan, a pioneer of Philippine abstraction and former dean of the UP College of Fine Arts. Five months ago, Ayala Mall's Greenbelt team commissioned the 57-year-old artist to paint the board panels wrapping around the construction site of Greenbelt 5.

GB5, slated to open in the third quarter of 2007, is the culminating piece of the grand lifestyle project that is Greenbelt.

"Greenbelt 5 will house the best the country has to offer alongside international luxury brands," says Rowena Tomeldan, Ayala Land vice president and Ayala Malls deputy head. "It will truly make Greenbelt 5 at par with the best of the world."

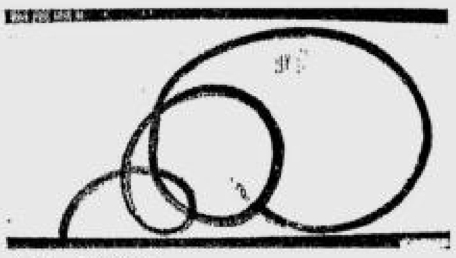
The new wing will house various restaurants offering international cuisine, leading global fashion and luxury brands, art galleries showcasing top local artists, and fashion houses owned by world-class Filipino designers.

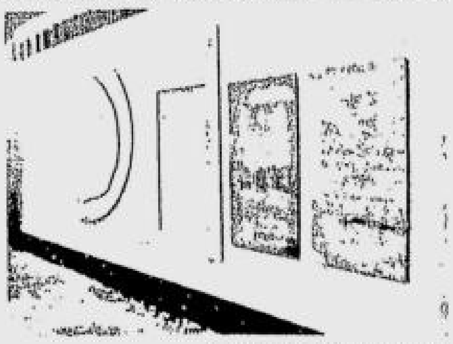
Given its close proximity to the Ayala Museum, one of the main thrusts of GB5 is to espouse Filipino artistry and ingenuity. Thus, soliciting the creative services of a celebrated Filipino artist such as Vinluan was the first step in realizing this vision; a proud patriotic gesture, as well as a salute to local talent that has gone global.

Arresting works

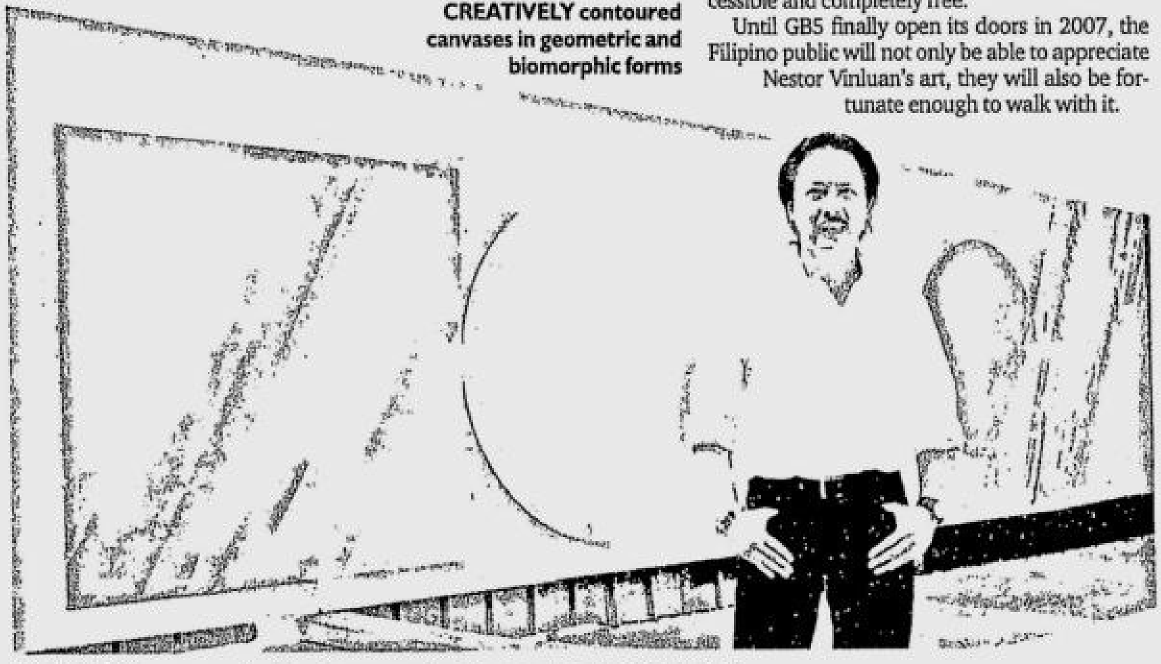
Using industrial paint in a kaleidoscope of modulated colors, creatively contoured canvases in geometric and biomorphic forms, and a sublime use of free space and slender wood beams, Vinluan has created a tapestry of arresting wall works that are thrust imposingly at casual bystanders.

Abstract art showcase in a shopping district draws forms and colors from nature





CREATIVELY contoured canvases in geometric and biomorphic forms



NESTOR Vinluan poses by his art surrounding the soon-to-rise Greenbelt 5.

The scintillating abstract works have not gone unnoticed.

"While I was busy painting the boards, so many people stopped to tell me how much they appreciate the art in the street," says Vinluan, who earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Pratt Institute in New York on a Fulbright Hays scholarship. "It really breathes life into the area, and it's a wonderful sight to behold amid all the ongoing construction."

Vinluan is a well-regarded master of nonrepresentational art. He has won various awards and accolades and has held several solo exhibitions in Southeast Asia, Japan, the United States and Europe.

Well known for his sensuous style of abstract art, Vinluan draws his creative inspiration from the cerebral and quiet themes of nature.

"A cloud, a tree, a branch, a stream of water—I am moved by observing such things," he says. "I get a natural high from open spaces, skies and horizons. So the temper of my work is very calm."

True to form, Vinluan's vibrant, geometric landscapes along the perimeter walls of GB5 are lush, abstract interpretations of these organic themes. Layered with personal language of textures—stains, drips, smears, and the occasional use of vertical lines and spheres—he mounts a massive, mile-long canvas that will surely leave a lasting artistic impression in the busy urban area.

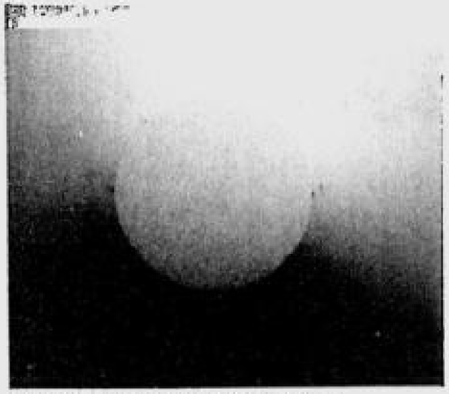
"It's wonderful to see that Ayala Land and Greenbelt 5 have been very supportive of the art scene," says Vinluan, who is set to paint another series of board panels once further construction is underway. "It's very fulfilling to share my work with the public in this kind of way: art that is accessible and completely free."

Until GB5 finally open its doors in 2007, the Filipino public will not only be able to appreciate Nestor Vinluan's art, they will also be fortunate enough to walk with it.

VISUAL ARTS

Talk on Kapampangan culture at Lopez Museum

THE LOPEZ MEMORIAL MUSEUM, IN cooperation with the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, presents the sixth lecture in the series "Stories about Preserving Cultural Heritage," on July 8, 2-4 p.m., at the Lopez Library. The talk, "Pamibyebye, gawiq, lub: Re-discovering Kapampangan Culture," will discuss the distinct Kapampangan culture—food, language—and efforts to preserve it. Lord Francis Musni of the Center for Kapampangan Studies is lecturer. Musni, who has attended courses on museum and cultural heritage management at the University of Santo Tomas' Cultural Heritage Studies program, is the archivist and consultant on church history and heritage of the Juan D. Nepomuceno Center for Kapampangan Studies. The Center was established by the Holy Angels University in 2002 to preserve, study and promote local history and culture. Its museum, library, research and publication unit, archives and theater have produced magazines, award-winning books, concerts and exhibitions to create more interest in Kapampangan culture. Fee is P50 for Museum Foundation members and P100 for non-members. The Lopez Memorial Museum is at the Benpres Building, Exchange Road and Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Call 6312417 or e-mail pezseum@skyinet.net



"UNTITLED," by Ronald Anading

Anading, Buencamino at Mag:net

RONALD Anading's "Blind Spot," July 6-31 at Mag:net Gallery Paseo, is a series of oil-on-canvas paintings which source their imagery from patterns created by magnified dust particles. The exhibit will also include the artist's "Dust Folio" series, a virtual portfolio or collection of particles which have accumulated over a year of stay in his studio using clear-book fillers. Anading will also present an installation piece consisting of an exhaust fan wrapped entirely in canvas. Curated by Roberto Chabet. Call 8177895 or e-mail magnetplus@gmail.com or visit magnet.com.ph.

Lyle Buencamino's first solo exhibit, "A Bowtie for John Lyle," opens on July 4, 6:30 p.m., at Mag:net Gallery ABS, The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN compound, Mother Ignacia Ave. and Eugenio Lopez St., QC. The title is taken from a lost music piece which Buencamino's father had used for the end-credits of a film.

The exhibit will run until July 31. Call 4100995 or e-mail magnetplus@gmail.com or visit magnet.com.ph

"PORTRAITS of Asia"

Librodo at One Workshop

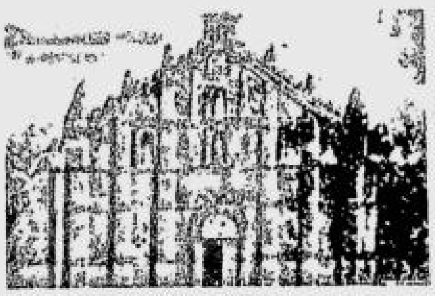
ONE Workshop Gallery is holding a photo exhibit by Manuel Librodo, "Portraits of Asia," until July 31. Librodo's photographs feature different places in Asia—Bali, Boracay and China—as well as portraits. One Workshop is at the G/F, 2241 La Fuerza Plaza II, Don Chino Roces Ave. and Sabio St., Makati City. Call 8105094 or 8192074.

Twigg at UP Vargas

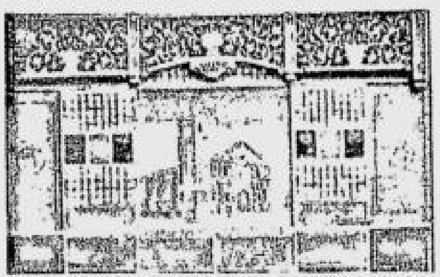
UP Jorge B. Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center and artist-in-residence Tony Twigg opens "Voyage to the Philippines: Ian Fairweather's Examination of a Crowd, 1934-38" on July 4 at the Lobby Gallery. The exhibit will feature canvas reproductions of works of British-Australian artist Ian Fairweather (1891-1972), regarded as Australia's finest abstract expressionist painter, who worked in the Philippines between 1934 to 1938. Fairweather's critics have declared his works made during this period as masterpieces and a fusion of European Modernism and Asian art, particularly Chinese calligraphy. It was also during this time that Modernism entered the Philippine art scene. Twigg will discuss his research on July 11, 1 p.m. The show runs until Aug. 13. Call 9281927, or e-mail vargasmuseum@gmail.com

Al Perez, Victor Wood et al at Renaissance

AL PEREZ, Danny Pangan, Ernie Velasquez, Rudolf Gonzales and Victor Wood are featured in the group exhibit, "5-D Strokes," at the Renaissance Gallery, July 6-16. Perez paints his trademark heritage churches. Pangan shows again his 3D treatments of "*bahay na bato*" and religious structures. Velasquez presents his vintage houses and pastoral landscapes. Hawaii-based Gonzales presents his photorealistic renditions of landscapes of his adopted country. Wood, the famous singer, mixes styles and shows his experimentations in his paintings. Call 6373101.



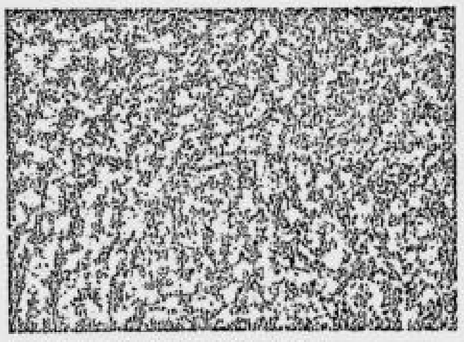
"PAOAY Church," by Al Perez



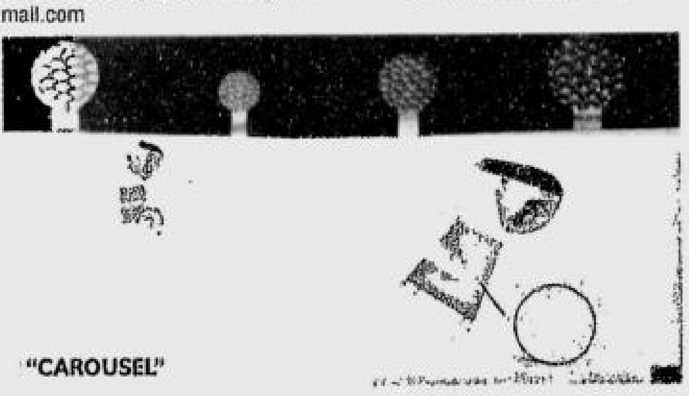
"GUIGUINTO Church," by Danny Pangan

Tan and Ng at Artists-Run

"THE WAY," an exhibit of paintings by Von Ng and Michelle Tan, runs until July 12 at Artist-Run Independent Art Space, 318-A LRI Business Plaza, Nicanor Garcia St. Bel-Air II, Makati City. The paintings show close, graphic imagery of matter and nature. Call 8959837 or e-mail arias16@lycos.com



"GOLDEN Trail," by Michelle Tan



"CAROUSEL"

Farley del Rosario at Blanc

TOP young artist

Farley del Rosario's new works are on exhibit in "At Play," at Blanc Art Space, 2E Crown Tower, 107 Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Featured in Del Rosario's signature scenes of delightful frolic and whimsical leisure are the artist's lovable string-necked urchins with curlicued arms.

The show runs until July 12. Call 7520032 or 0920-9276436.

Symposium on heritage architecture and conservation

THE UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE Philippines (UAP) Kalayaan-100 Chapter is conducting a series of symposia on architectural currents to benefit students and professionals alike.

In cooperation with the UAP Student Auxiliary-University of Santo Tomas chapter, the first symposium is set on July 13 at the audio-visual room of the UST College of Architecture, Beato Angelico Bldg.

Speaker is architect Maria Cristina Turalba, author of the book "Philippine Heritage Architecture before 1521 to the 1970s." She will talk about heritage conservation.

Career orientation for architecture graduates will follow with architects Eric Suarez of Active Group, Inc./Turalba & Associates and Jenner Macaballug as speakers. Suarez and Macaballug will discuss housing and computer rendering, respectively.

Entrance is free but only preregistered participants will be admitted. Deadline of registration is July 5. Register through the UAPSA UST chapter president, Joy Ann Cerdon (0920-6044601), or the chapter secretary, Jeannielynne Uy (0921-4864479).

The next symposium is in September at the Central Colleges of the Philippines with architect Dianne Marcelle K. Abistado, senior architect of St. Luke's Medical Center, as speaker. The symposia are sponsored by Crown Asia Compounders, Inc.

Flores...

From page D1

Fatima's flower carts and bouquets—in a variety of glass, ceramic, or earthenware receptacles on tables with gaily printed linen—now come in varied sizes (items in her last collection came in only two measurements). She now includes landscapes and detailed backdrops with vibrant hues.

"Bouquet for You" and "Mama's Window," for instance, are scenes of preparation, the pretty clutter of freshly cut flowers in disarray, before they are transformed into more studied arrangements.

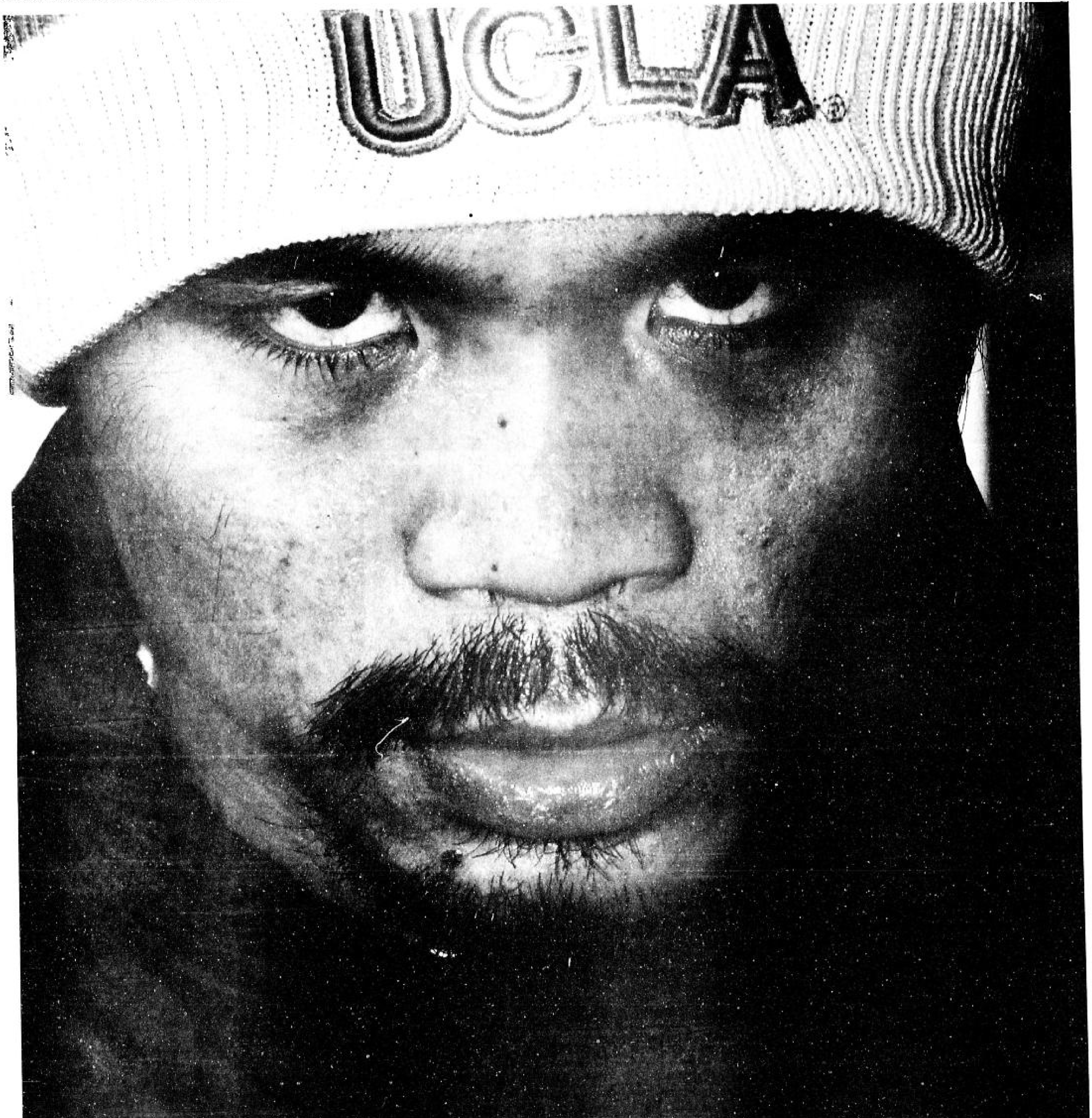
Through cropped white wooden country window corners or steel lattice and glass, there's a miniature panorama of more foliage and horticulture accoutrement outside.

For the first time, Fatima has done a diptych ("Romy's Row") and triptychs ("Baguio Bed and Breakfast" and "Secret Place 2"). These are renditions of lovely masses of color and greenery outdoors, with cottages, garden paraphernalia, arches and walkways.

The collection shows Fatima Antonio expanding her range and quelling any speculation that her pieces only echo those of her mother's. Fatima Antonio takes a direction all her own.

E-mail the author at majorday@gmail.com

Ringside View



BREWING THE STORM IN MANNY PACQUIAO

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JUN DE LEON • TEXT BY ARTURO CUEVAS

Freddie Roach
Wild
BOXING
FOR
FREDDIE ROACH

IN THE punch-mitt routine of fabled trainer Freddie Roach, Manny dissolves himself into a bobbing-and-weaving, shifting illusion, safely tucked away from headhunter shots. And each time Pacquiao hits, Roach would swear it was as if a seasoned middleweight fighter was behind that power of a punch.

Pambansang Kamao. People's Champion. How to unravel the phenomenon that is Manny Pacquiao?

To dwell on his celebrity would be just too easy. For hasn't he demolished the invincibility of two Mexican ring legends, first Marco Antonio Barrera and later Erik "El Teribile" Morales? But certainly there's more to the Pacquiao mystique than that for sure.

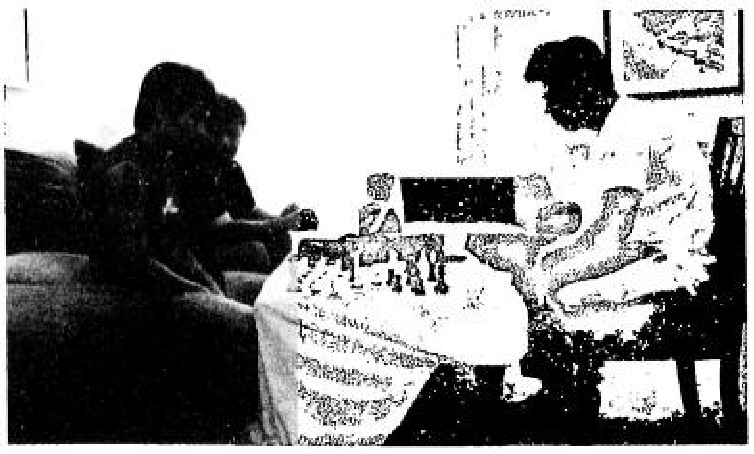
For like the legendary Sugar Ray Leonard whose rise to fame had been founded on going beyond the mere fundamentals of boxing, the making of the Filipino PacMan is one determined endeavor to be more than a boxer and harness his God-given talent to unite and inspire a whole nation.

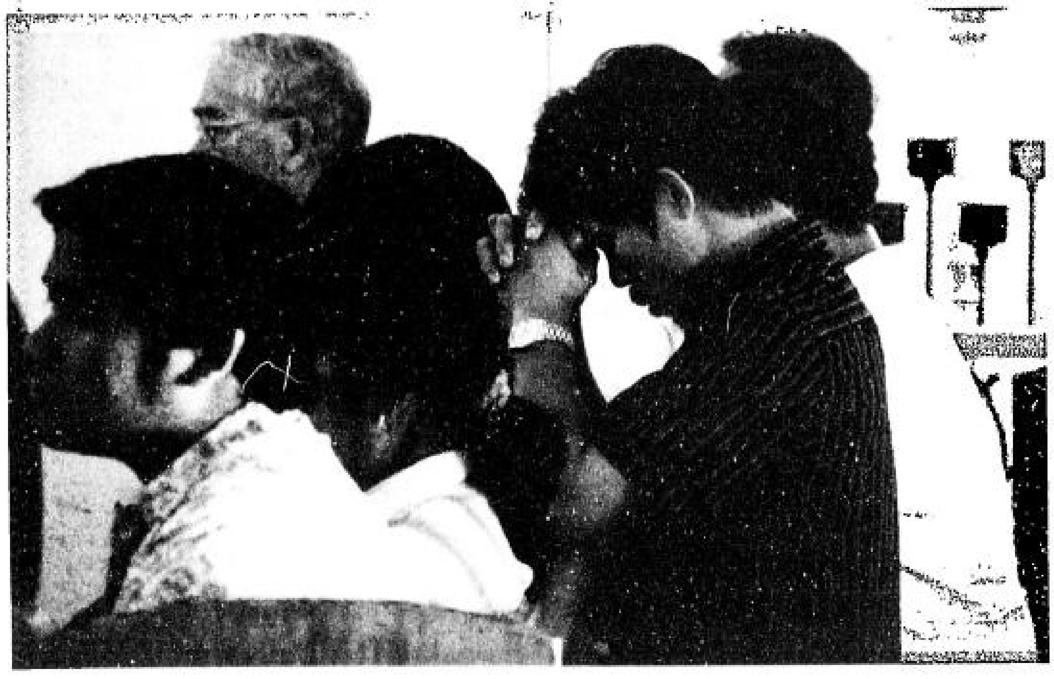
"Karangalang bigay ng Mahal na Diyos na maging inspirasyon ng buong bayan," is a Pacquiao oft-repeated victory spiel.

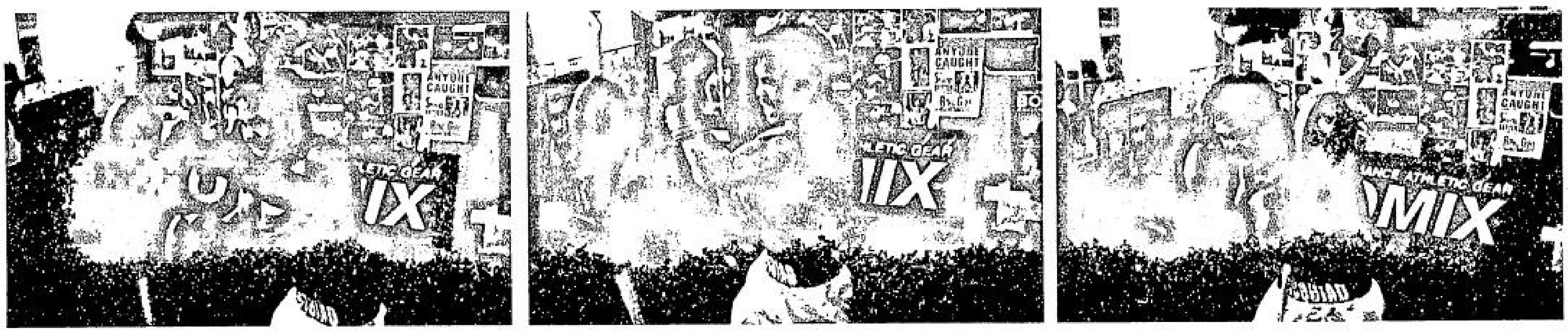
Manny thus was true grit and determination personified anew in training for his fight against former WBC super bantamweight champion Oscar "Chololo" Larios; the PacMan pitching camp at Los Angeles, California, again away from home, sons and pregnant wife. Indeed, it could it be said that the Pacquiao source of strength is his monastic way of training; his best fights much like some winning symphonies written in the isolation of the darkest of nights.

And it was this distillation of sacrifice, courage, focus and hard work that the L.A. Camp Pacquiao brought back for the PacMan's homecoming bout for the WBC world superfeatherweight championship vs. Larios at the Big Dome.

TEAM PACQUIAO BONDS even tighter and zaps the pangs of homesickness via the wonders of Manny's laptop, games of chess, communal prayers and some rare joyride in the Porsche of the PacMan. Otherwise, it is no bed of roses in the training camp of the People's Champ as pretty soon he's again banging at the double-end striking bag for the speed, rhythm, timing and reflexes that have conspired to send many a foe crashing to the canvas.

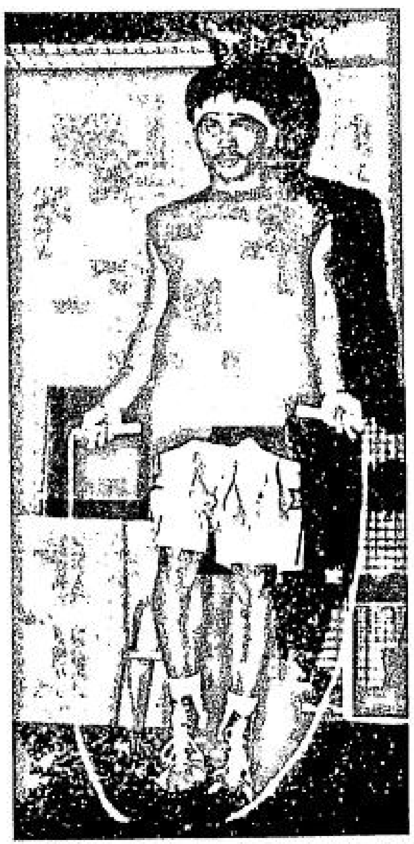






No Bed Of Roses For Team Pacquiao

PACQUIAO launches on a daily dose of one thousand crunches and sit-ups to fortify that vaunted PacMan six-pack. Together with the steeled piston legs of a long distance runner and a newly developed killer right, Manny has piled up an armory that very few ring artists could match.



MANNY perfects his footwork via the skipping-rope that segues to the staccato round with the speed bag for punching accuracy, stamina and the blurring speed which, if the occasion demands, all have to be wisely spread over 12 bruising rounds.

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Pacquiao
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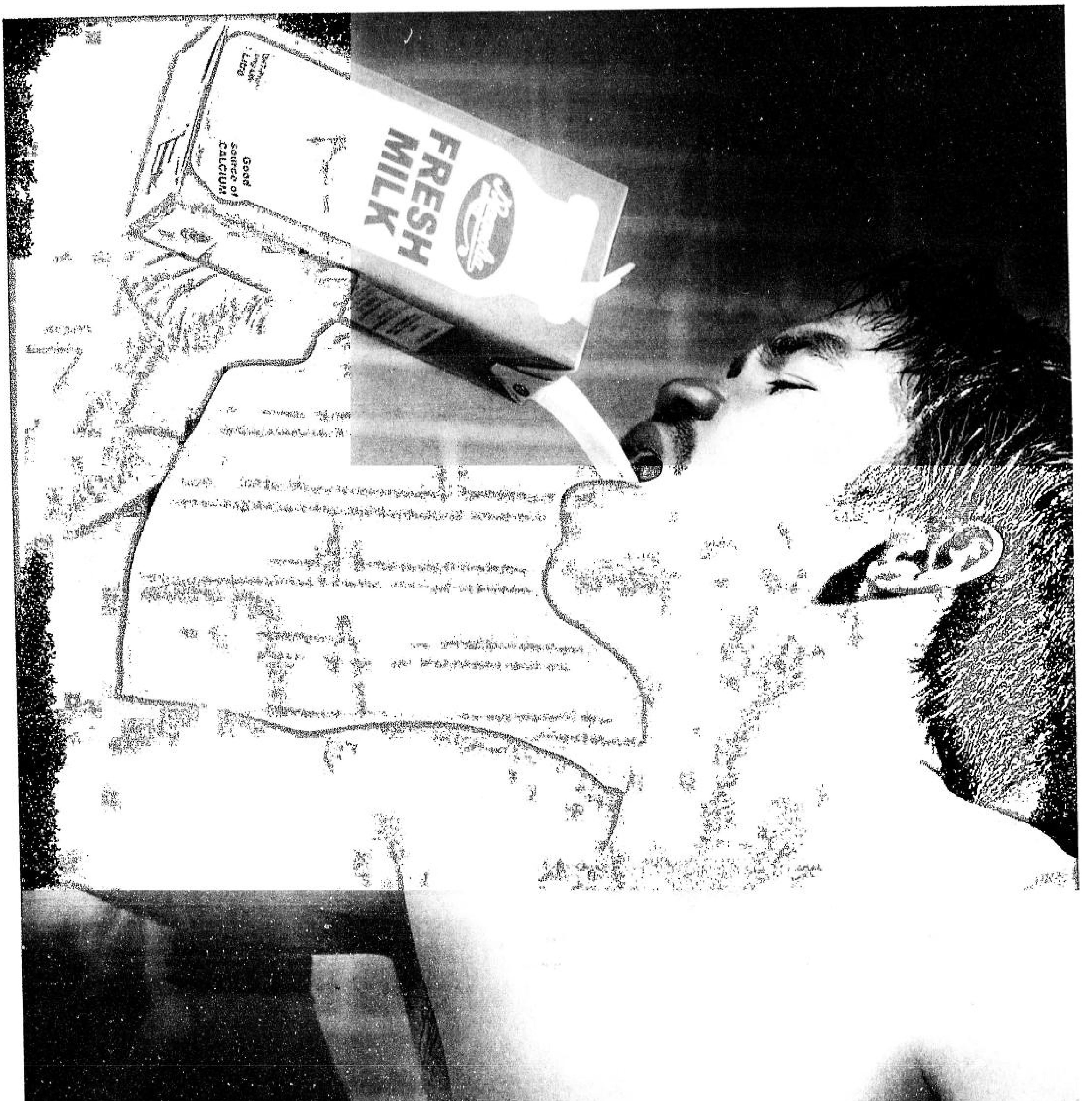
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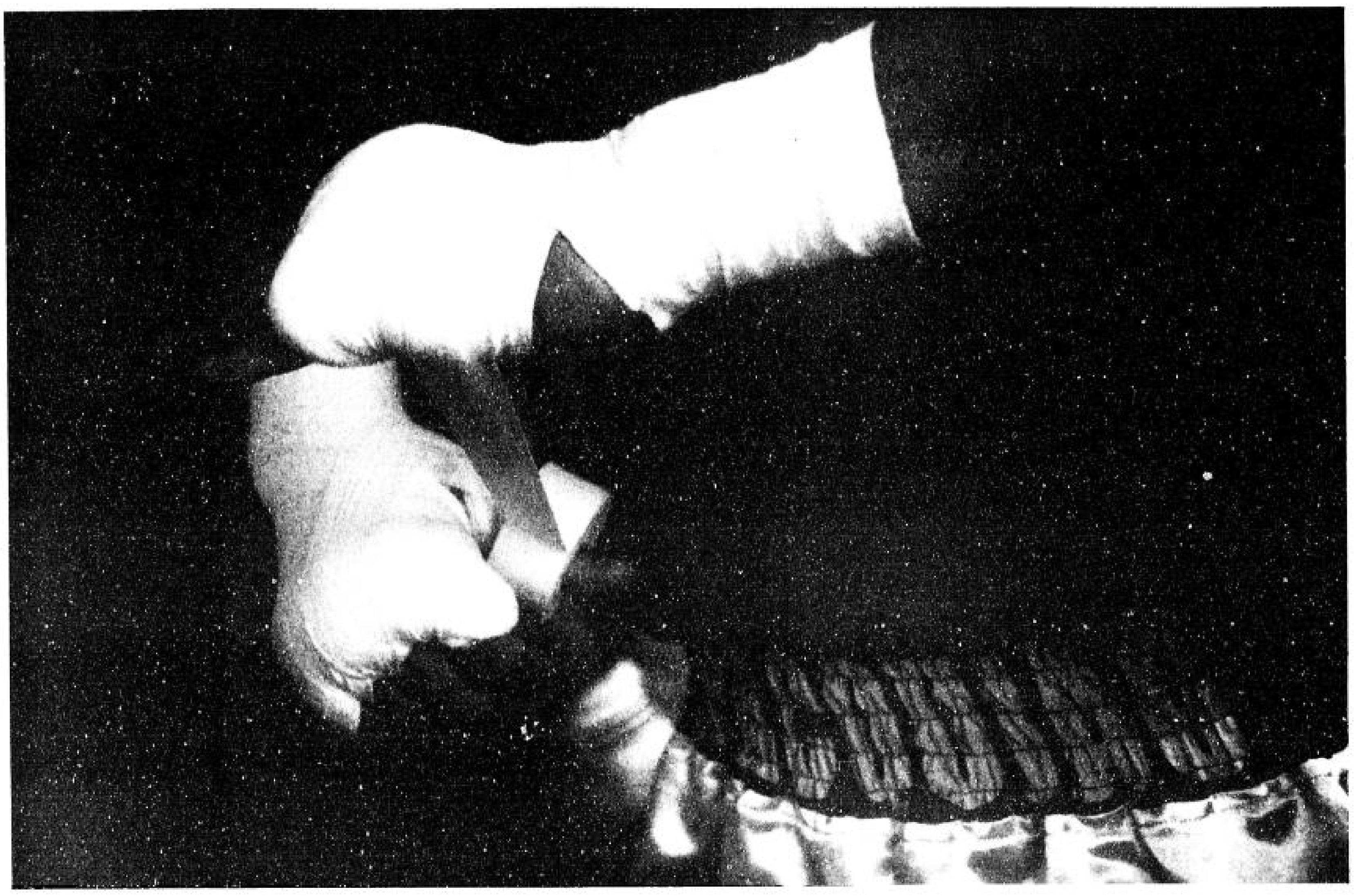
Pacquiao
Magnolia
Magnolia at Manny Pacquiao, ipinaglalaban ang kalusugan!

Priming for a Ring Tango

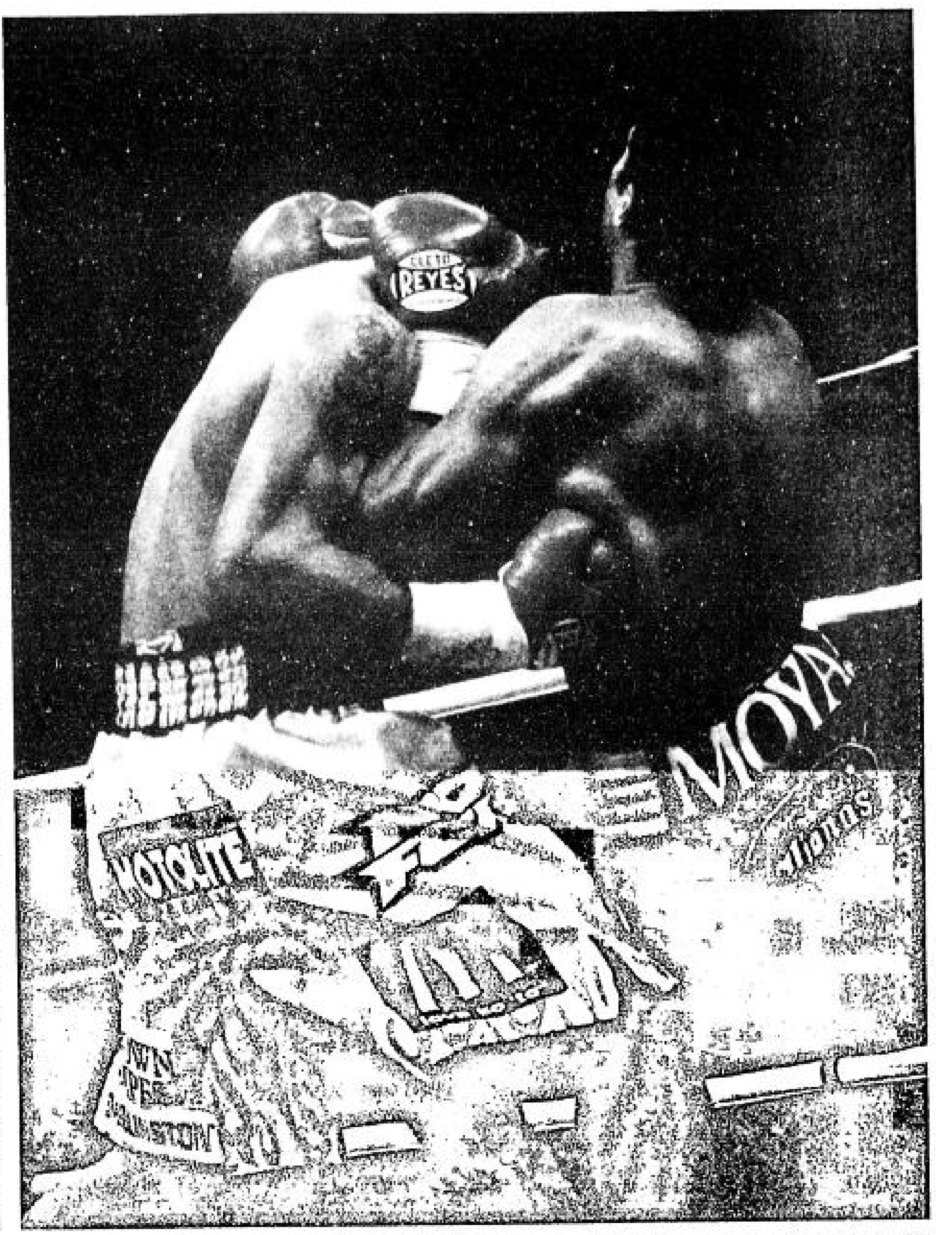
PACQUIAO CHASES HIS OWN SHADOW as he primes up fists for that brutal tango atop a square ring where the mastery of tempo, timing and rhythm is an element towards a crown. After roadwork and breakfast, Manny's home is the Wild Card Boxing Club off Vine Street in Hollywood for more quality training time with Russian sparmates and trainer Freddie Roach. The PacMan's gym routine included racking up eight rounds of hard sparring against much-heavier Russian welterweights Vladimir Zykov and Rustam Nugaev.

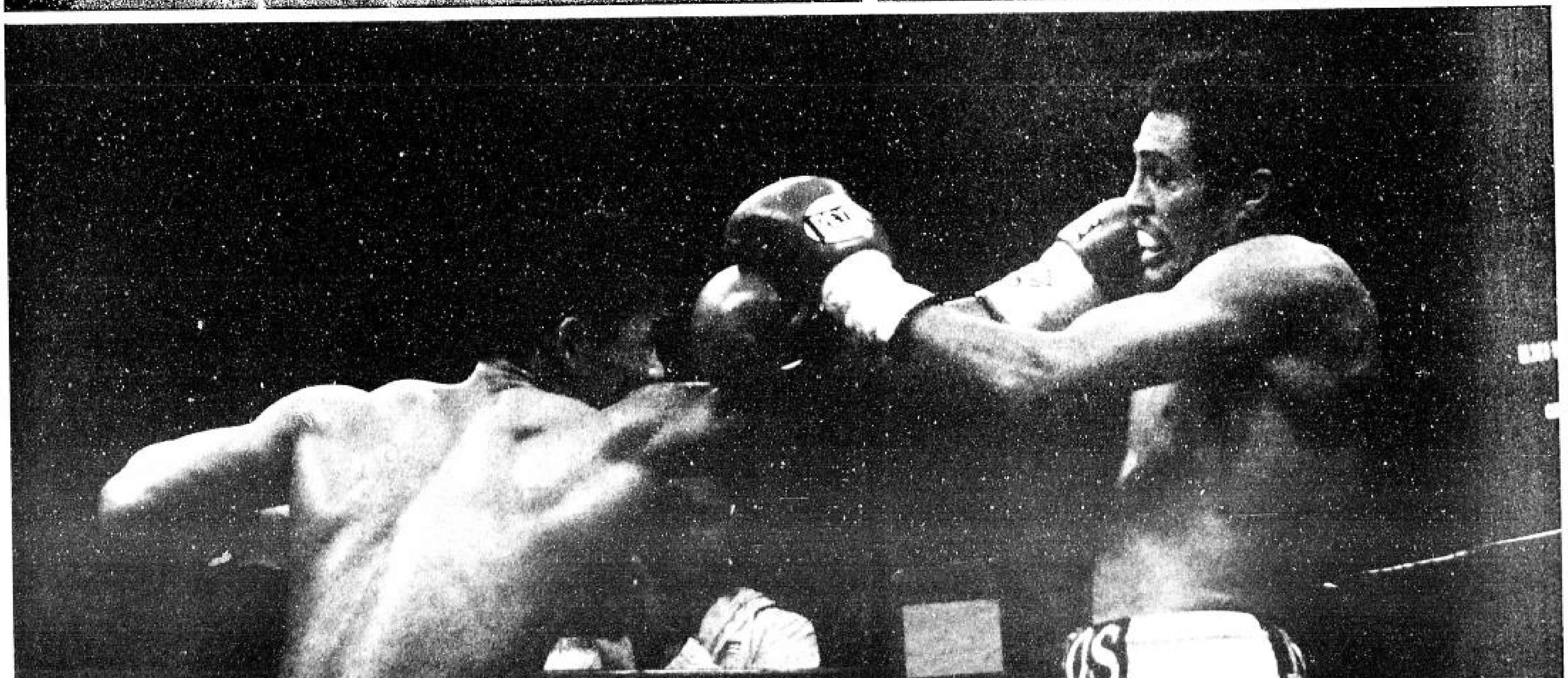


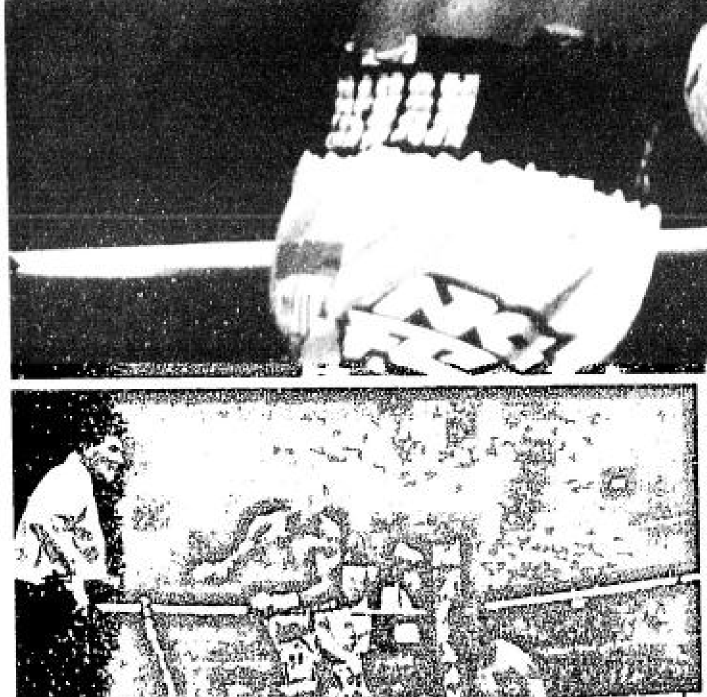
MANNY somehow finds some solace and comfort in the familiar touch of an old training hand and the company of brother Bobby and compatriot Gerry Peñalosa as he tackles the hills of California in a daily six-mile early morning stamina run.

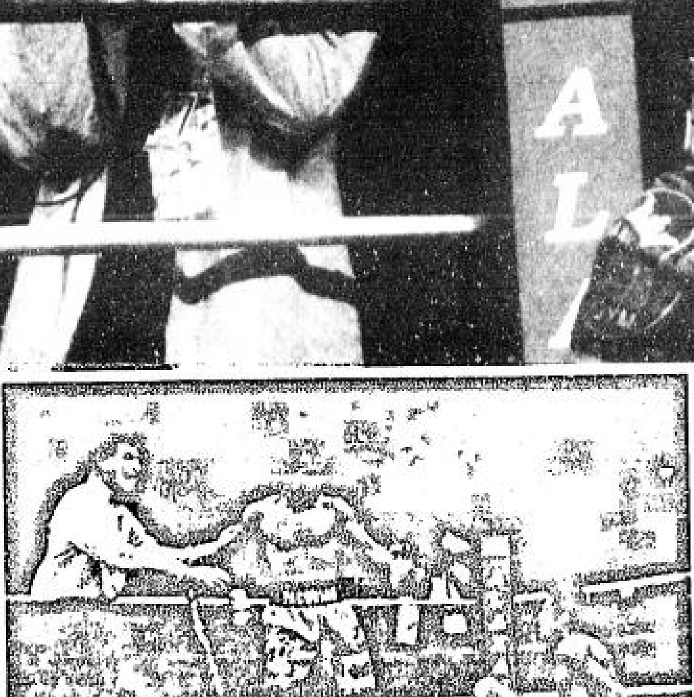
A HERO wraps himself up in familial comfort to muster the courage and inner strength that inspires an entire nation shortly prior to his date with Larios.

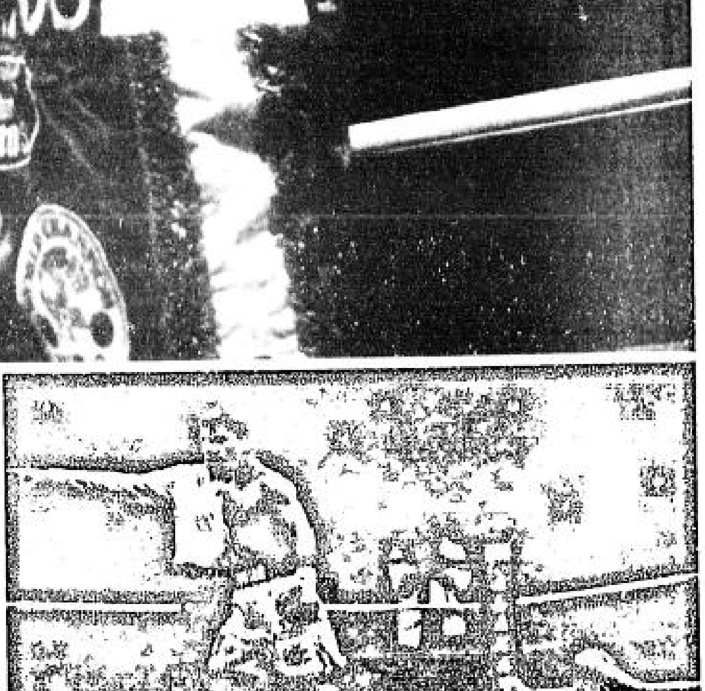
...and Pacquiao carves yet another victory for the Filipino, **LABAN KO, LABAN MO**!

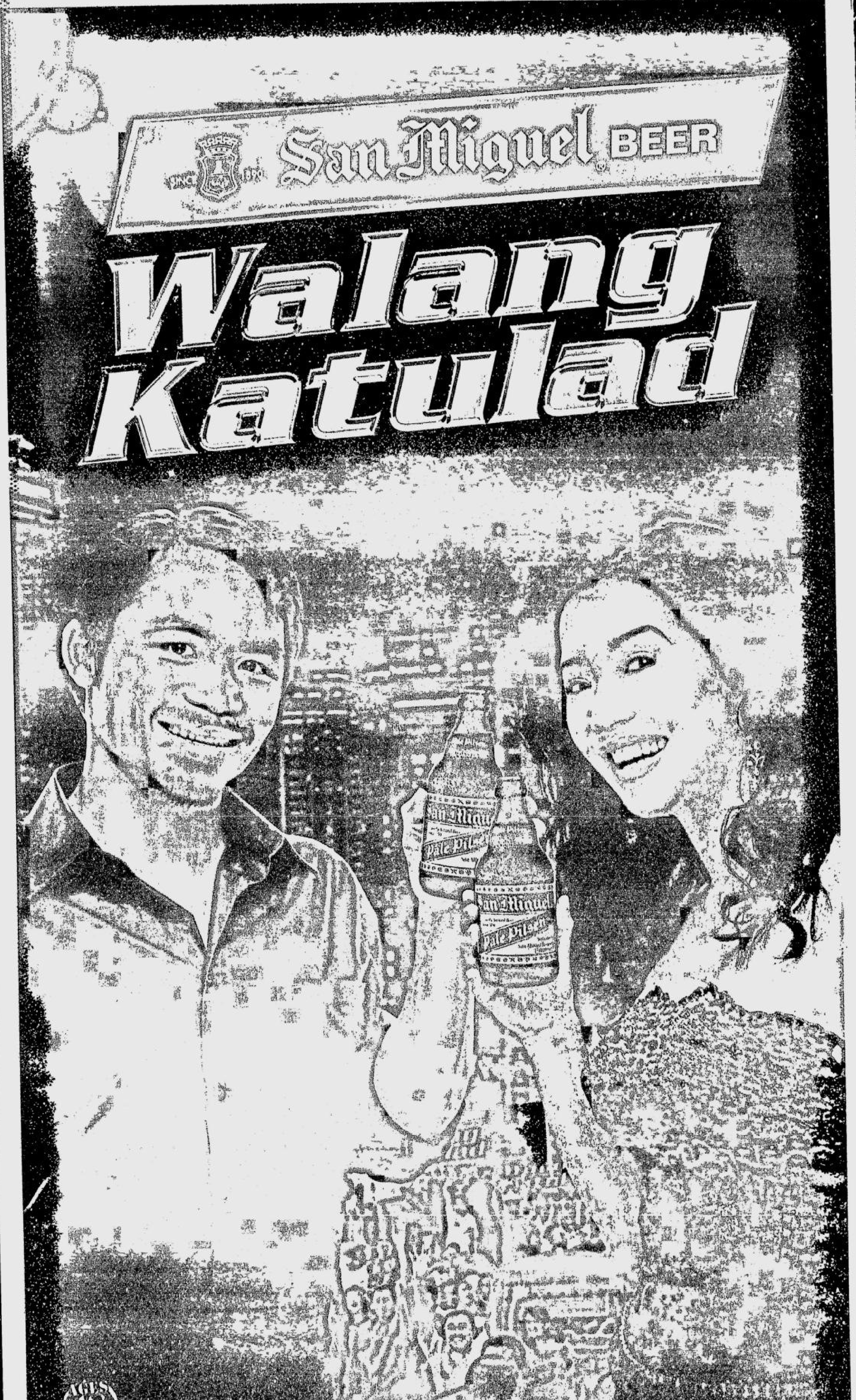

REYES
MOYA
MOTOLITE







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